MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, International Military Staff

SUBJECT: Arms Control and Verification Tests - NAC Meeting on 13 September 1967

Reference: LCOM 8213 13 September 1967

Further to reference please find attached for your information a copy of a letter by the United States Delegation on the subject of NATO Field Tests of Arms Control Techniques.

Enclosure: MCREP
MISC 4989

Copy to: SHiPE Belgium
SACLANT
CINCHAM
NATFAGOL
Dear Colleagues:

Please find attached the text of Ambassador Cleveland's remarks (made in NAC on September 13) proposing that work begin toward NATO Field Tests of Arms Control Techniques (NAFTACT).

Sincerely,

Jonathan C. Menes,
Secretary of the Delegation

The Lord Coleridge, Executive Secretary
Secretaries of Delegations
Military Committee Representative
Mr. Chairman:

As you know, the United States for the past several years has been devoting comparatively large resources to research work in the arms control and disarmament field. This, I like to believe, is evidence that we are trying to move from the traditional rhetoric about disarmament to the serious study of just how we might do something sensible about it without damaging our security.

One part of our program has been devoted to research into technology and techniques for verification of various types of arms control agreements that might be agreed to in the future. In this area we have been conducting a series of field tests of various procedures for inspection and verification of possible international agreements to reduce the levels of armaments. Our national tests have gone under the code name Project Cloud Gap and have been carried out jointly by the Defense Department and the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency. Next year ACDH is planning an additional field test in the United Kingdom in collaboration with the British Government, which the other allies will be invited to observe.

We think we have learned at least something from these tests of interest to our allies. We therefore asked that this item be inscribed on the agenda of the Disarmament Experts meeting. The US Delegation will be briefing its colleagues on our experience with Cloud Gap, and I therefore do not need to describe it in any detail to the Council this morning.

But we did want to take advantage of this meeting to make a proposal to the allies so that the experts can take it into account in the course of their deliberations. We have reached the point in the course of this experimental project where we feel that it would be highly useful to conduct a multinational field test. Such a test could draw upon whatever is valuable in the experience we have gained on a national basis and will gain out of the upcoming test in the United Kingdom. Obviously, if we are successful in reaching any arrangements for arms control in Europe, we shall have a common interest in how the performance of commitments under such arrangements can be verified.
Our thoughts about this are preliminary and general; we prefer to work out the specifics through consultations with interested allies. So what we propose is simply the establishment of an ad hoc group to study this proposition and to formulate recommendations for the consideration of the relevant NATO authorities. The kind of questions this group would have to consider would include the following:

--- the assumptions to be made about the kind of arms control arrangements to be verified;

--- an elaboration of the types of verification and inspection techniques to be tested;

--- a determination as to whether such a field test could be made part of an already-projected NATO military exercise -- and, if so, which one;

--- the development of cost data and suggestions as to how these might be shared; and

--- recommendations on appropriate administrative mechanisms for planning the exercise in detail and for carrying it out.

Manifestly we would want to draw into the preliminary study group the NATO military authorities, in addition to experts from capitals and delegations. The help of SHAPE would be required especially in the fields of intelligence and exercise planning; and we would also want to call on the substantial capability of the SHAPE Technical Center in exercise analysis.

Our preliminary examination suggests that costs would be quite modest if the field test could be conducted as part of a regular military exercise. In this connection we would hope that an exercise could be chosen which involves a broad participation of allied forces and which covers a broad geographic area.

Mr. Chairman, it seems to me that this is all that needs to be said about this proposal this morning. The Disarmament Experts will be digesting our experience with the Cloud Gap project in the next few days. After that, the governments will have a chance to consider the proposal we are making this morning to study the feasibility of a multinational test under the auspices of the Alliance. And after an appropriate interim, we can come back to the subject at this level.