



ORGANISATION DU TRAITÉ DE L'ATLANTIQUE NORD
NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION

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OTAN PARIS ou
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NATO SECRET
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To: Permanent Representatives of: Belgium
Canada
Denmark
Germany
Greece
Iceland
Italy
Luxembourg
Netherlands
Norway
Portugal
Turkey
United Kingdom
United States

From: Secretary General

WITHDRAWAL OF UNITED STATES NAVAL FORCES

References: C-M(55)82(Final)
United States Permanent Representative's letter
of 10th March, 1967

Permanent Representatives will recall that on 10th March, 1967, the United States Permanent Representative informed them and the NATO Military Authorities of the temporary deployment to the Pacific area for intermittent periods between May 1967 and December 1968, and consequent re-classification in Category B, of an anti-submarine warfare carrier and a guided missile destroyer leader at present earmarked for SACLANT in Category A.

2. The Military Committee has now provided the following evaluation of the military effects of these changes:

- (a) During intermittent periods from May 1967 through December 1968, the total number of Category A anti-submarine warfare carriers available for the Commander-in-Chief, Western Atlantic Area, and the Commander, Striking Fleet Atlantic, combined, will be reduced to three. The total number of Category A missile destroyers available for the Commander, Striking Fleet Atlantic, will be reduced to 18 (17 United States, one United Kingdom). In each case there will be a corresponding increase in Category B.

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- (b) In view of the critically low level of Allied Command Atlantic's anti-submarine forces in general, the loss of one Category A anti-submarine warfare carrier is of considerable importance and will seriously affect SACLANT's ability to counter the Soviet submarine threat. The loss of one Category A missile destroyer will reduce the Striking Fleet's anti-aircraft defence capability.
- (c) The urgent national commitments which have caused these withdrawals are fully appreciated. However, the need for the earliest practical return to Category A of these ships is urged.

(Signed) Manlio BROSIO