

~~NATO~~  
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~  
NORTH ATLANTIC MILITARY COMMITTEE  
COMITE MILITAIRE DE L'ATLANTIQUE NORD

STANDING GROUP

GRUPE PERMANENT

56 230955

23 September 1955

Dear Lord Jerny

I am writing to you on behalf of the Standing Group on a few matters concerning the October Defense Ministers' Conference.

The seating plan is of course a delicate subject, but I would like to present to you certain feelings which we have about it. Firstly there is the matter of whether country's senior military advisers should not sit at the Conference table. We have already sent you a signal through General de Chassey on this subject, so I will not elaborate further on this.

There is also, however, the very delicate matter of where General Pallis should sit. I am sure you will agree that if the best results are to be obtained during the whole Conference it is highly desirable that General Sir John Whiteley, as Chairman of the Standing Group, should sit immediately next to you to help you in controlling the discussion. If you agree with this General Pallis might sit with the Standing Group, but at the other end. Alternatively, you may think it appropriate that General Pallis should not sit with the SGN, but that it might be preferable if he sat next to the Chairman of the Council. I suggest that this matter might be left over until we meet in Paris should you wish to discuss it further with us.

We note that your present intention is to move to a smaller room for the discussion periods, with the consequent reduced attendance. I am sure we all feel that the discussion periods will be the most important part of the Conference. From the Standing Group point of view we are bringing only the minimum staffs we require for the Conference and it would be a considerable inconvenience if all our staffs were excluded from the discussion periods. The views expressed during the

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

IMS Control N° 0735.....

NATO  
CONFIDENTIAL

discussions will have a bearing upon the tenor of the Standing Group final presentation, and also upon follow-up action resulting from the Conference, for example the Military Comments on the Annual Review. We would therefore be most grateful if selected members of the staffs we bring over for the Conference may be permitted to attend the discussion periods.

*Your faithfully*

Lt. General J. E. VALLOY  
Chairman, Standing Group  
North Atlantic Treaty Organization

The Lord Ismay of Wormington, G.C.B., C.H., D.S.O.  
Secretary General to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization  
Palais de Chaillot  
Paris 16, France