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NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL

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NATO CONFIDENTIAL
SUMMARY RECORD
AC/36-R/11

WORKING GROUP ON LABOUR MOBILITY

EXPERT WORKING GROUP ON MANPOWER

Summary Record of a meeting held at the
Palais de Chaillot, Paris, on Tuesday,
26th October, 1954 at 10.30 a.m.

PRESENT

Chairman: Mr. E.C.H. Cullingford (United Kingdom)

Mr. A. Delpérée (Belgium)	Mr. D.R. Mansholt (Netherlands)
Mr. F.G. Hooton (Canada)	Mr. Kwint (Netherlands)
Mr. V. Frézouls (France)	Mr. K. Hedemann (Norway)
Mr. M. Ungaro (Italy)	Dr. M. de A. Coutinho (Portugal)
Mr. G. van Werueke (Luxembourg)	Mr. G.A. St.J. Chadwick (United Kingdom)
	Mr. M. Weisz (United States)

INTERNATIONAL STAFF

Mr. P. Huet	(International Staff, Chairman of Working Group on National Military Service)
Mr. R. Stinglhamber	(Economics and Finance Division)
Mr. P. Anninos	(Secretary)

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I. MANPOWER PROBLEMS LIKELY TO ARISE IN AN EMERGENCY AND METHODS THAT MIGHT BE ADOPTED FOR DEALING WITH THEM

Reference: AC/36-R/10, Item I
Documents: AC/36-D/30 (Revised)
AC/36-D/32

1. The Working Group had before it a revised draft report to the Council (AC/36-D/30 (Revised)) and a draft questionnaire to be sent out to member countries (document AC/36-D/32).

2. The CHAIRMAN pointed out that since the last meeting the Annual Review Committee had set up a Working Group on National Military Service, whose studies were to a certain extent related to the studies of the present Group. It was important that there should be no overlapping of work between the two Working Groups and that in particular the draft questionnaire should not duplicate any studies already carried out by the Working Group on National Military Service. In this connection he welcomed the presence at this meeting of the chairman of that Working Group.

A. Examination of document AC/36-D/30 (Revised)

3. In a discussion of the draft report to the Council, the following main points were made:

Paragraph 5

4. On the suggestion of the UNITED KINGDOM and UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVES, it was agreed that since the annexes which had been originally attached to the document were too bulky for presentation to the Council either in their entirety or in summarised form, they would not be attached to the draft report and the references to them would consequently be deleted. It was, however, agreed that some reference should be made in paragraph 5 to the existence of this background material.

Recommendations

5. On the suggestion of the NETHERLANDS REPRESENTATIVE it was agreed that it should be clearly understood that the recommendations in such highly technical fields as wartime manpower problems should not constitute hard and fast rules but represent only a general statement of the objectives and methods proposed, leaving to each country the maximum possible flexibility in their application.

6. The CANADIAN REPRESENTATIVE suggested that a recommendation might be made to the effect that in view of the fact that considerable time would be needed to assemble all the necessary information with regard to skilled manpower requirements, such studies might be linked with the studies of other NATO emergency planning committees. In his Government's view it was important to co-ordinate manpower requirements with other emergency planning measures. He had received some comments and suggestions from his authorities which he would forward to the Secretariat for circulation and further study.

7. With regard to paragraph 8(b), Mr. HUET (Chairman, Working Group on National Military Service) emphasised the importance of the manpower demands of the military authorities.

The chairman, however, pointed out that whilst the importance of these requirements was fully recognised full regard would have to be paid at the same time to maintaining an adequate supply of manpower for war production and essential industries and services.

8. After further discussion, in which minor amendments were made to the recommendations in paragraphs 8(a), (b) and (c),

9. The WORKING GROUP:

directed the Secretary to submit the report as approved by the Working Group to the Council through the appropriate channels.

B. Examination of document AC/36-D/32

10. The CHAIRMAN pointed out that the Working Group on National Military Service was concerned with the means for meeting military force goals in peacetime, whereas the work of the present Group was concerned with manpower requirements on the outbreak of an emergency. As there was, however, still some risk of duplication of work, he suggested that he might, in consultation with the Chairman of the Working Group on National Military Service and the Secretariat, revise the draft questionnaire with a view to eliminating or reducing the scope of questions on any subjects on which information was already available to the Secretariat; the objectives of the questionnaire would, of course, remain unchanged.

11. It was agreed in the circumstances that, although it seemed unlikely in view of the discussion that delegations would wish to submit any further comments, the questionnaire would not be formally issued until ten days after the meeting.

12. The WORKING GROUP:

approved the above suggestion by the Chairman.

II. EMPLOYMENT OF LOCAL CIVILIANS BY NATO FORCES SERVING ABROAD

Reference: AC/36-R/10, paragraph 29(b)
Document: AC/36-WP/3

13. The CHAIRMAN recalled that it had been agreed at the last meeting that the Secretariat should prepare a report on the employment of local civilians by NATO forces serving abroad. This report was now available as the working paper AC/36-WP/3, on which he invited comments.

14. The CANADIAN and ITALIAN REPRESENTATIVES thought that it would be helpful to have further discussion with the object of establishing general NATO principles which might later be used in the drawing up of multilateral or bilateral agreements. In particular the Canadian Representative thought that it might be desirable to re-enforce the provisions of Article IX(4) of the Status of Forces Agreement.

15. The UNITED KINGDOM REPRESENTATIVE on the other hand, while considering that it might be possible to work out a list of general principles to be followed, said that his Government would be strongly opposed to the creation of any elaborate machinery

which might, for instance, with regard to the position of United States Forces in the United Kingdom, impair the present friendly relationship and create an unnecessarily rigid situation. He would prefer to see the present arrangements continue with bilateral negotiations where necessary between member countries.

16. The BELGIAN, FRENCH and LUXEMBOURG REPRESENTATIVES supported the United Kingdom point of view, particularly in view of the fact that Article IX(4) laid down that conditions of work etc. should be regulated by the legislation of the host country. It was, therefore, inadvisable to have additional provisions which might conflict with such legislation.

17. After further discussion, the WORKING GROUP:

agreed to defer further discussion of this question.

III. THE STATUS OF FOREIGN WORKERS IN TIME OF WAR

Reference: AC/36-R/10, paragraph 29(a)
Document: AC/36-D/33

18. The CHAIRMAN recalled the request by the Coal and Steel Committee with regard to man-power requirements which had been considered at the last meeting*, and which it was important that the Working Group should bear in mind. For example, in Belgium where a considerable part of the labour force in the coal and mining industry was made up of Italian workers, a serious situation could be created by the recall of these workers to Italy in an emergency. This was a case where bilateral agreement between the two countries concerned might be useful. The Working Group should bear in mind the necessity for member countries to have adequate peacetime measures for retaining essential foreign labour or for recalling their own nationals from abroad if necessary in wartime.

19. The FRENCH REPRESENTATIVE thought that the first question which arose was that of the position of an alien in wartime. If he were of military age, it should be established whether he were liable for military service; if he were beyond military age, the degree of essentiality of his work within the economy of the country in which he was living should be determined. Briefly, each member country should know what foreign labour it could count on as available in time of war.

20. The LUXEMBOURG REPRESENTATIVE drew attention to the position of the coal and steel industry in Luxembourg where out of 16,000 workers 3,000 were aliens, of which about 2,400 were Italian. The withdrawal of these workers in an emergency would seriously affect the defence effort of Luxembourg; he therefore agreed that it was essential to have some guiding principles for member countries to follow with regard to the treatment of foreign workers in time of war.

* Reference AC/36-R/10, Item II.

21. The CHAIRMAN thought that the additional information which the Working Group required and which he thought was already available within other international organizations, might be divided under the following three heads:

- (a) the age and sex of the workers concerned;
- (b) the essentiality of their occupation;
- (c) the numbers involved.

He agreed that it was desirable to establish some general principles and asked whether the members of the Working Group considered that the problem was adequately stated in paragraphs 5-11 of the document.

22. The CANADIAN REPRESENTATIVE said that he would shortly forward to the Secretariat for circulation suggestions for additional points which might be studied. The interest of the Canadian Government in this problem was perhaps different from that of other governments, since foreigners generally came to Canada as immigrants and were then treated as Canadian nationals, i.e. being generally liable to service with the Canadian forces and generally subject to the same labour regulations as other citizens.

23. The FRENCH REPRESENTATIVE, with regard to paragraph 8, considered that it was not within the competence of the Committee to set up a code for the treatment of foreign workers, but only to make general recommendations.

24. The MEMBERS of the WORKING GROUP agreed that there should be no question of establishing a code, but only of making recommendations.

25. After further discussion the WORKING GROUP:

- (1) requested the Secretariat to prepare a paper for the next meeting setting out such information as was already available within NATO, OEEC and other appropriate international organizations on the subject of the treatment of foreign workers;
- (2) invited those countries which so wished to submit papers drawing attention to their particular problems with regard to foreign labour in time of war;
- (3) agreed to study this question further at its next meeting.

IV. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

26. The next meeting was arranged for 10.30 a.m. on Tuesday, 11th January, 1955.

Palais de Chaillot,
Paris, XVIIe.