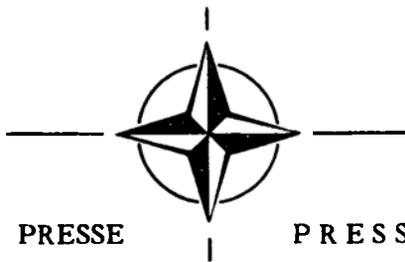


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PRESS SERVICE

Place du Maréchal de Lattre de Tassigny, PARIS, XVI - Téléphone : KLEber 50-20

PRESS RELEASE (62)13

For release  
25th July, 1962

Appointment of a Successor to General Norstad  
as Supreme Allied Commander Europe

1. The North Atlantic Council have been informed of the contents of a communication from the President of the United States of America to the Secretary General and Chairman of the Council, in which he asked that the member governments should agree to the release at his own request later in the year of General Lauris Norstad from his assignment as Supreme Allied Commander Europe in order to permit his retirement from active duty.

2. The Council agreed with great regret to release General Norstad from his assignment as Supreme Allied Commander Europe. They recognised that General Norstad had fully discharged the trust reposed in him by the Council when, in 1956, they appointed him as Supreme Allied Commander Europe. They expressed to General Norstad, in the name of the governments represented on the Council, lasting gratitude for the distinguished service rendered by him.

3. The Council then unanimously decided to request the President of the United States of America to nominate an officer of the US Armed Forces for appointment by the Council as Supreme Allied Commander Europe to succeed General Norstad. The request was immediately transmitted to the President of the United States, who informed the Council of his nomination of General Lyman L. Lemnitzer for consideration by the Council as successor to General Norstad.

4. The Council at a meeting this afternoon unanimously adopted a resolution declaring that they reposed the greatest faith in General Lyman L. Lemnitzer and appointed him Supreme Allied Commander Europe, as successor to General Norstad, with the same powers and functions. The appointment will become effective later in the year.

ANNEX I  
to Press Release (62)13

Letter from the President of the United  
States to Mr. Stikker

19th July, 1962

Dear Mr. Stikker,

I am addressing you as Chairman of the North Atlantic Council with the request that appropriate action be taken to secure the release around November 1st of this year of General Lauris Norstad from assignment as Supreme Allied Commander, Europe. In making this request through you to the member nations who appointed him, I ask that they give favorable consideration to his release.

General Norstad has, as you know, expressed a desire to retire from active duty in the Armed Forces of the United States on or about November 1st, 1962. I believe his long and distinguished career of dedicated service to the Alliance and to his country has earned for him the right to have his request granted.

The continuing military threat to the NATO area, compelling the NATO nations to maintain and improve the strength of their armed forces, emphasizes the continuing need for outstanding leadership at SHAPE. The Council will shortly proceed to appoint an officer to fill the vacancy created by General Norstad's retirement, and I am confident the nation invited to nominate a successor will propose its most outstanding officer available. I am confident the new SACEUR will be afforded the same high degree of cooperation that nations have extended to General Norstad and that the new SACEUR will therefore be successful in carrying out his vital responsibilities.

Sincerely,

(Signed) JOHN F. KENNEDY

His Excellency  
Dirk U. Stikker  
Secretary General,  
NATO.

ANNEX II  
to Press Release (62)13

Council Resolution Accepting the Relief of  
General Norstad from Assignment as Supreme  
Allied Commander Europe

THE NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL:

Having considered a communication by the President of the United States to the Secretary General and Chairman of the Council requesting him to initiate appropriate action to secure the release of General Lauris Norstad from assignment as Supreme Allied Commander Europe,

Agrees with great regret to the release later in the year of General Norstad from assignment as Supreme Allied Commander Europe;

Recognises that General Norstad has fully discharged the trust reposed in him by the North Atlantic Council when, in 1956, the Council appointed him Supreme Allied Commander Europe;

Expressed to General Norstad, in the name of the Governments represented on the Council, lasting gratitude for the distinguished service rendered by him.

ANNEX III  
to Press Release (62)13

Council Resolution Requesting the United States  
to Nominate a Successor to General Norstad as  
Supreme Allied Commander Europe

THE NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL:

Taking into account the resolution adopted by the  
Council on 20th July,

Unanimously requests the President of the United  
States to nominate an officer of the Armed Forces of the  
United States for appointment by the Council as Supreme Allied  
Commander Europe to succeed General Norstad, at a date to be  
decided later.

ANNEX 4 TO THE PRESS RELEASE (62) 13

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES  
TO NATO SECRETARY GENERAL DIRK U. STIKKER

July 25, 1962

Dear Mr. Stikker:

Pursuant to the request of the North Atlantic Council that I nominate an officer of the Armed Forces of the United States for Appointment by the Council as Supreme Allied Commander, Europe, to succeed General Lauris Norstad, I hereby nominate General Lyman L. Lemnitzer.

General Lemnitzer is presently the highest ranking officer in the United States Armed Forces and is, I am sure, well and favorably known to the member governments of the Alliance. Before coming to the Chairmanship of the Joint Chiefs of Staff in 1960, General Lemnitzer was Vice Chief and then Chief of Staff of the Army from 1957 to 1960. He had earlier served as Commander-in-Chief of the Far East Command and as the First Director of the US Military Assistance Program from 1949 to 1950. At the end of World War II, he was Deputy Chief of Staff to Field Marshal Sir Harold Alexander in the Allied Forces Headquarters.

It is our firmly held conviction in the United States that we must continue to work in a spirit of interdependence in carrying out the common and indivisible task of defending Europe and North America. I am confident that under General Lemnitzer's leadership this task will continue to be carried forward with the same success that it has in the past.

Sincerely,

JOHN F. KENNEDY