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CO-ORDINATED PRODUCTION OF NEW WEAPONS

Report by the Assistant Secretary General for  
Production and Logistics

This report is concerned with activity undertaken under the procedure adopted by the Council on 5th February 1958 and set out in document C-M(58)17(Revised).

2. After preliminary talks with delegations it was found that proposals were already under discussion amongst certain nations for co-ordinated production of various modern weapons, including missiles, and those culminated in lists being submitted to the Council at the time of the meeting of Defence Ministers in April, 1958 (C-M(58)65 and 66).

3. These lists were discussed in the Defence Production Committee and nations were asked to indicate the various items in which they were interested so that further action could be taken on them.

4. After further consultations, it appeared that the first missile to be selected for co-ordinated production should be a surface-air missile, in view of the importance of air defence and the military requirements for such a weapon. A variety of considerations, notably those of performance and availability, led to the selection of the United States HAWK missile for this purpose.

5. It was then suggested that representatives of the five nations who had signified their interest in the production of such a missile should form themselves into a Working Group. These five nations are Belgium, France, the Federal Republic of Germany, Italy and the Netherlands. The United States were also asked to attend, as the missile selected is of US origin.

6. The representatives of the nations at present concerned adopted this suggestion and the Working Group was formed with the object of establishing co-operation between the five European nations in production and in sharing the cost of such production of the HAWK missile system as a NATO project, with the United States lending assistance in technical matters. The nations will make their final decision on their participation after a visit which is

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being organized for their technical experts to the United States to study the HAWK design, production and testing facilities. The Working Group should soon be in a position to discuss the organization required to establish the production plan.

7. Although there are other missiles under consideration, the HAWK is the first selected, subject to final decision, for co-ordinated production in Europe, and this is therefore the pilot scheme. Reports will be submitted later on further missiles as appropriate.

8. It is proposed that detailed reports on each project should be submitted periodically to the Armaments Committee.

9. The Council is asked to take note of this report.

(Signed) E.H. MEILI

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