

NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL DEPUTIES SUPPLEANTS DU CONSEIL DE L'ATLANTIQUE NORD 272

NATO UNCLASSIFIED
and
PUBLIC DISCLOSED

CONFIDENTIAL
DOCUMENT
D-D(52)4
OR. ENG.
4th January 1952

PROPOSED POSTPONEMENT OF THE NEXT MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

Note by the Executive Secretary

The Canadian Delegation has informed the Secretariat that the Chairman of the North Atlantic Council on 29th December received a message from the French Government, transmitted through the French Embassy in Ottawa, to the following effect:

"The French National Assembly has had to delay its working programme in order to proceed to voting the Budget.

"It will not therefore be possible, having in mind the difficulties which have been encountered in the negotiations over the draft treaty on the European Defence Community, to bring this question before the Assembly before January 29. It will only be after the draft treaty has been debated in the Assembly that its final status can be determined.

"The French Government therefore state that it will obviously be impossible for the Assembly to come to a decision in time to permit the French delegation to proceed to Portugal on the 2nd of February. Consequently, they ask for a delay of at least one week in the date for holding the Lisbon session of the Council."

In communicating this text to the Secretariat the Canadian Delegation states that since the Council Deputies were not at that time in session, the Chairman has instructed Canadian missions in N.A.T. countries to transmit this message to the respective Foreign Ministers with a request for the views of the Government concerned on the French proposal for a postponement of the Lisbon meeting.

(Signed) N.E.P. SUTTON

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