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~~NATO SECRET~~
ANNEX B/9 to
RDC/57/428

DEFENCE PROBLEMS

ADDENDUM

to

RDC/57/428
(dated 5th December, 1957)

Note by the French Delegation

A. DEFINITION OF PRINCIPLES

Interdependence is the logical outcome, on the one hand of the common destiny and the political and military solidarity which led to the conclusion of the Alliance and, on the other of new aspects of the threat we have to face.

Our action is determined by two basic though complementary considerations. The first of these is the realisation that given the increasingly scientific character of modern weapons and the ever higher cost of producing them, no country is in a position to manufacture the full range without jeopardising its freedom and curbing the steady rise in the living standards of its people. The second is the realisation that no NATO country can be entirely dependent for its security on the others or some of the others without introducing into the Alliance political inequality at variance with the legitimate desire of every State to assume responsibility for its own defence. Western civilisation, the product of contributions made by all, must also be safeguarded through contributions made by all.

Interdependence must satisfy the following conditions:

- (1) its purpose is to make the Alliance more effective and to consolidate the defence of the NATO area. The primary concern must therefore be increased efficiency. In view of this, the dominant consideration will be the allocation of tasks and a better utilisation of each country's resources solely in the common interest;
- (2) however, when planning interdependence, account will also have to be taken of certain political factors. All countries will make a greater effort and will do so with greater willingness if they are conscious that the work shared in common is based in principle and in fact on moral equality. Regard for the maintenance of a reasonable balance between the parties to the Alliance as regards their rights and duties is essential. The contribution of Europe to

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the common cause has certainly not been entirely in line with its industrial potential and manpower resources. Europe should be given a larger share of responsibility. Concurrently, the solidarity of the various members of the Alliance must be made manifest by the equitable participation of each of them in all the principal military tasks devolving on NATO. The fact that United Kingdom, United States and Canadian forces are participating in the European shield is, in this respect, of vital importance;

- (3) interdependence will also have to be achieved in such a manner as not to upset permanently the economic or financial balance between member States or the various sections of the Alliance. The reduction of costs is desirable and necessary; its effect, however, must not be to create insuperable foreign exchange payments problems;
- (4) moreover, in certain fields, interdependence will have to be achieved with due regard for local circumstances and the need for co-operation between the forces of a number of members of the Alliance within the same theatre of operations;
- (5) interdependence also calls for the sharing of knowledge.

B. IMPLEMENTARY MEASURES

Guided by the above considerations, and with a view to defining the framework within which interdependence of the members of the Alliance must be set, certain decisions of principle might be taken at the December Ministerial Meeting. Irrespective of those which may be taken in the fields of political and economic co-operation, these decisions should cover:

- (1) accelerated implementation of the measures planned for strengthening the shield with tactical atomic weapons in the light of the decisions taken by the Atlantic Command in consultation with the countries concerned;
- (2) the constitution of integrated stocks of atomic warheads in accordance with the principles on which interdependence is to be based;
- (3) the distribution between members of the Alliance of essential weapons on the basis of their respective shares of responsibility;
- (4) an equitably adjusted balance in the field of applied research and defence production;
- (5) the development of greater standardisation in respect of the structure of the forces, infrastructure and logistic support.

The meeting will also have to decide what measures should be taken to improve the organization and expansion of basic scientific research.

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The practical application of the principles defined above and the action needed to implement any decisions which may be taken, will take the form of concrete projects to be formulated and developed both bilaterally and unilaterally, as the case may be, within NATO or WEU.

It is suggested that a conference of ministers be held in March to take cognisance of the projects prepared and to decide on their implementation.

It is in this spirit that the French Government now adds to the project already submitted with respect to a North Atlantic Foundation for Scientific Research, the projects set forth in the two notes attached hereto.