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NOTE BY THE SECRETARY

to the

NORTH ATLANTIC MILITARY COMMITTEE

on

THE STRATEGIC CONCEPT FOR THE DEFENSE OF THE NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY AREA

1. The Enclosure is a revision of D.C. 6/1 as amended by the Standing Group and the Military Representatives Committee [S.G. 1/7 (Final)] and as subsequently approved by the North Atlantic Council at their Meeting on 3 December 1952 [C-R(52)31].

2. This document supersedes D.C. 6/1 and S.G. 1/7 (Final).

ENCLOSURE

STRATEGIC CONCEPT FOR THE DEFENSE OF THE NORTH ATLANTIC AREA

I

PREAMBLE

1. The attainment of the objectives of the North Atlantic Treaty requires the integration by the parties to the Treaty of those political, economic, and psychological, as well as purely military, means which are essential to the defense of the North Atlantic Treaty area. Of particular significance is the requirement that the objectives of the North Atlantic Treaty be accomplished in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations. The Parties to the Atlantic Treaty have declared:

"They are determined to safeguard the freedom, common heritage, and civilization of their peoples, founded on the principles of democracy, individual liberty, and the rule of law."

"They seek to promote stability and well-being in the North Atlantic area."

"They are resolved to unite their efforts for collective defense and for the preservation of peace and security".

2. For the purpose of, first, preventing war, and , second, insuring in the event of war the effective application of the military and industrial strength of the Treaty nations in a common defense, the military means available to the nations of the North Atlantic Treaty must be effectively coordinated. As a basis for such coordination a common strategic concept for the defense of the North Atlantic Treaty area must serve as the keystone for the plans of the Military Committee, the major NATO commanders and the Canada-United Sates Regional Planning Groups. It is the purpose of this document to outline a broad concept for the overall defense of the North Atlantic area.

3. This broad concept is built on considerations of geographic position, industrial capacity and resources, population and the military capabilities of the Treaty nations, and recognizing that each nation's contributions should be in proportion to these considerations. The objective is adequate military strength accompanied by economy of effort, resources and manpower. It is desirable that each nation develop its military strength to the maximum extent consistent with overall strategic plans in order to provide for its own defense and to participate in the common defense.

4. This concept is the initial step in the initiation of realistic, vital and productive defense planning aimed at securing peace and lessening the possibility of aggression. It is aimed at providing the basic strategic guidance needed by the Military committee, the major NATO commanders and the Canada-United States Regional Planning Group in order to assure coordinated planning in consonance with the principles set forth in Title II below. The measures required to implement this concept will require constant review.

II

NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY DEFENSE PRINCIPLES

5. Certain general principles are recognized as underlying the North Atlantic Treaty defensive organizations. These principles are accepted as fundamental to the successful functioning of the organization and the development of a common defense program. As such, those applicable to defense planning are set out in the following paragraphs as an integral part of the basic guidance for the Military Committee, the major NATO commanders and the Canada-United States Regional Planning Group.

a. The main principle is common action in defense against armed attack through self-help and mutual aid. The immediate objective is the achievement of adequate collective self-defense among the North Atlantic Treaty nations.

b. In accordance with the general objective of Article 3 of the North Atlantic Treaty, each nation will contribute in the most effective form, consistent with its situation, responsibilities and resources, such aid as can reasonably be expected of it.

c. In developing their military strength consistent with overall strategic plans the participating nations should bear in mind that economic recovery and the attainment of economic stability constitute important elements of their security.

d. The armed forces of these nations so located as to permit mutual support in the event of aggression should be developed on a coordinated basis in order that they can operate most economically and efficiently in accordance with a common strategic plan.

e. A successful defense of the North Atlantic Treaty nations through maximum efficiency of their armed forces, with the minimum necessary expenditures of manpower, money and materials, is the goal of defense planning.

f. A basic principle of North Atlantic Treaty planning should be that each nation should undertake the task, or tasks, for which it is best suited. Certain nations, because of their geographic location or because of their capabilities will be prepared to undertake appropriate specific missions.

III

OBJECTIVES OF THE NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY DEFENSIVE CONCEPT

6. The purpose of the North Atlantic Treaty defensive organization is to unite the strength of the North Atlantic Treaty nations in order to promote the preservation of peace and to provide for the security of the North Atlantic area. The general objectives of the defensive concept are:

a. To coordinate, in time of peace, our military and economic strength with a view to creating a powerful deterrent to any nation or group of nations threatening the peace,

independence and stability of the North Atlantic family of nations.

b. To develop plans, for use in the event of war, which will provide for the combined employment of military forces available to the North Atlantic nations to counter enemy threats, to defend and maintain the peoples and home territories of the North Atlantic Treaty nations and the security of the North Atlantic Treaty area.

IV

MILITARY MEASURES TO IMPLEMENT DEFENSE CONCEPT

Basic undertakings

7. Overall defense plans must provide in advance of war emergency, specifically for the following basic undertakings in furtherance of the common objective to defend the North Atlantic area. The successful conduct of these undertakings should be assured by close coordination of military action as set forth in overall plans.

a. Insure the ability to carry out strategic bombing promptly by all means possible with all types of weapons, without exception. This is primarily a US responsibility assisted as practicable by other nations.

b. Arrest and counter as soon as practicable the enemy offensives against North Atlantic Treaty powers by all means available, including air, naval, land and psychological operations. Initially, the hard core of ground forces will come from the European nations. Other nations will give aid with the least possible delay and in accordance with overall plans.

c. Neutralize as soon as practicable enemy air operations against North Atlantic Treaty powers. In this undertaking the European nations should initially provide the bulk of the tactical air support and air defense, other nations aiding with the least possible delay in accordance with overall plans.

d. Secure and control sea and air lines of communication (LOC), and ports and harbors, essential to the implementation of common defense plans. The defense and control of sea and air LOC's will be performed through common cooperation in accordance with each nation's capabilities and agreed responsibilities. In this regard it is recognized that the United States and the United Kingdom will be primarily responsible for the organization and control of ocean lines of communication. Other nations will secure and maintain their own harbor defenses and coastal LOC's and participate in the organization and control of vital LOC's to their territories as may be indicated in overall plans.

e. Secure, maintain and defend such main support areas, air bases, naval bases and other facilities as are essential to the successful accomplishment of the basic undertaking. These undertakings will be a responsibility of the nations having sovereignty over these essential bases, areas and facilities, aided as necessary and to the extent set forth in collective defense plans.

f. Mobilize and expand the overall power of the Treaty nations in accordance with their planned contribution to later offensive operations designed to maintain security of the North Atlantic Treaty area.

Cooperative measures

8. The essence of our overall concept is to develop a maximum of strength through collective defense planning. As a prerequisite to the successful implementation of common plans, it is recognized that certain cooperative measures must be undertaken in advance. These measures are:

a. Standardization, insofar as practicable, of military doctrines and procedures.

b. Conduct of combined training exercises, when deemed desirable.

c. Compilation and exchange of intelligence information and data peculiar to the conduct of contemplated Atlantic Treaty organization defense planning and operations resulting therefrom.

d. Cooperation in the construction, maintenance, and operation of military installations of mutual concern, in conformity with the agreements between the interested countries.

e. Standardization of maintenance, repair, and service facilities which will be of mutual concern in the event contemplated defense plans have to be implemented.

f. Standardization, insofar as practicable, of military material and equipment for use in operations as developed by common defense plans.

g. Collective cooperation to regulate, beginning in peacetime, all measures of military preparation necessary for the common defense, which measures may be implemented within the framework of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization provided always that the country whose territory is involved does not desire or is not able to put them into effect itself. In each case, the respective arrangements will be regulated by mutual agreement between the countries directly concerned.

h. Cooperation, within the legal limitations and administrative restrictions of each country, in research and development of new weapons and in the development of new methods of warfare.

i. Cooperation, insofar as is practicable, in planning for the conduct of psychological and other special operations.