

II. APPOINTMENT OF SUPREME COMMANDER

Gentlemen, I am sure you await with impatience the communique which has been announced to you yesterday and if you so desire I will give the floor to Mr. Acheson.

MR. DEAN G. ACHESON (UNITED STATES): Mr. Chairman I have a communique which I should like to read to you.

My dear Mr. Chairman, at your behest I have communicated to the President of the United States the request of the North Atlantic Council that the United States Government designate a United States officer for the position of Supreme Allied Commander Europe and it is recommended that General of the Army Dwight D. Eisenhower be so designated. I transmit herewith the President's reply. "Pursuant to the request of the North Atlantic Council that I designate a United States officer to take the position of Supreme Allied Commander Europe, I have designated General of the Army Dwight D. Eisenhower. In taking this action I wish to express my gratification and agreement with the view of the North Atlantic Council that General Eisenhower's experience and talents make him uniquely qualified to assume the important responsibilities of this position. Signed Harry S. Truman".

MR. PAUL van ZEEBLAND (BELGIUM) (Interpreted): Gentlemen, I am certain that I am speaking in the name of all of us when I express our thanks to Mr. Acheson for the diligence with which he accomplished this delicate mission which we asked him to accomplish. I also think I interpret the feelings of all when we ask him to thank the President of the

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United States and express the great appreciation of this Council.

Gentlemen, I have in front of me the draft of a text by which the North Atlantic Council formally expresses its position with regards to the communication which has just been made to us. If you are agreed, I will proceed to read this.

(Reading in English)

"The North Atlantic Council, having made provision in accordance with the recommendation of the Defense Committee, D.C. 23, for the integrated force for the defense of Europe under the Supreme Commander, and having the request of the President of the United States to designate an officer of the United States to fill the position of the Supreme Commander, and the President of the United States having designated General of the Army Dwight D. Eisenhower, the Council therefore decree that General of the Army Dwight D. Eisenhower is appointed the Supreme Commander with the powers and functions specified in D.C. 24/3 over the forces to be assigned to his command.

(Interpreted): At the same time, gentlemen, I have been requested to read you the text of the letter which I have received from Mr. Moch, Minister of Defense of France:

"In conformity with the instructions of the Government of the French Republic, I have the honor of giving my agreement to the designation of General of the Army Dwight D. Eisenhower as Supreme Commander of the forces of the Atlantic Powers in Europe (SHAPE) within the framework of the decisions of the North Atlantic Council dated 18 December 1950.

"With expressions of consideration." Signed. Jules Moch.

MR. JULES MOCH (FRANCE) (Interpreted): Mr. Chairman, I feel we may congratulate ourselves upon having arrived at this decision, which, as I said yesterday, is an absolutely essential one with regard to the future. And I wish also to thank the Secretary of State of the United States of America for the rapidity with which he was able to arrive at this solution.

I feel that the very solemn act which we are living now should be materialized and made real in two ways: The first consists in unanimous agreement by ourselves of the resolution which you have previously read. And the solemnity of this would be greatly enhanced if this resolution were to remain in the Archives with the signatures of the twenty-four Ministers present.

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And secondly, I feel there should be an individual answer somewhat on the model of mine by each government and which would commit each government.

MR. PAUL van ZEELAND (BELGIUM) (Interpreted): May I ask you whether you would agree to follow these suggestions? Firstly, do you accept the draft resolution which I read to you? Does someone request the floor? If no one requests the floor, may I consider this resolution is accepted? It shall be so ordered.

Will you now give me your opinions on the second part of the suggestion; that is, a letter addressed by the individual governments and patterned on the letter which was signed by Mr. Moch? May I take it that we are agreed? May I then suggest that the different delegations address the aforementioned letter to me. And may I suggest that this be done during the course of this day in order that the question be definitely settled.

COUNT CARLO SFORZA (ITALY) (Interpreted): Mr. Chairman, the Italian Government may give its agreement in principle to the proposal of Mr. Minister Moch, but our constitutional rules do not allow me to give an answer at this time.

MR. PAUL van ZEELAND (BELGIUM) (Interpreted): I believe that some of the delegations may have some reservations as to the legal and constitutional form which they will have to give their answer.

MR. HALWARD M. LANGE (NORWAY) (Interpreted): Mr. Chairman, each of us will be obliged to give to his letter the necessary form conditioned on the constitutional provisions of his own country. What will happen, in effect, is that we will all say the same thing, but there will be variations in the formula.

MR. PAUL van ZEELAND (BELGIUM) (Interpreted): If I understood the proposal right, it was suggested that all the Ministers here present put their signature to this letter, the resolution. Would this not be a manner of expression of our agreement in principle? This could be done and leave the other part; that is, the individual letters, to be expressed according to the constitutional provisions of each country.

COUNT CARLO SFORZA (ITALY) (Interpreted): The Minister of Italy requested the Chairman to request the interpreter before he started the interpretation to give the name of the person he was speaking for. This will be done.