

NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL
CONSEIL DE L'ATLANTIQUE NORD

301

NATO UNCLASSIFIED
and
PUBLIC DISCLOSED

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH
29th April, 1952

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SUMMARY RECORD
C-R(52)1

Summary record of a meeting of the Council
held at Palais de Chaillot, Paris,
on Monday 28th April at 10.a.m.

PRESENT

Chairman - The Lord Ismay

M. A. de Staercke (Belgium)	Mr. A.D.P. Heeney (Canada)
M. V. de Steensen-Leth (Denmark)	M. H. Alphanand (France)
M. P. Verykios (Greece)	M. G. Petursson (Iceland)
Signor A. Rossi-Longhi (Italy)	M. A. Wehrer (Luxembourg)
Jonkheer A.W.L. Tjarda van Starkenborgh Stachouwer (Netherlands)	M. A. Skaug (Norway)
Count de Tovar (Portugal)	M. M.A. Tiney (Turkey)
Sir Frederick Hoyer-Millar (United Kingdom)	Mr. W. Draper, Jr. (United States)

ALSO PRESENT

M. H.F.L.K. van Vredenburg (Deputy Secretary General)
General Lindsay (Standing Group)
Mr. R.D. Coleridge (Office of the Secretary General)

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I. OPENING CEREMONIES ON THE FIRST MEETING IN PARIS OF THE COUNCIL
IN PERMANENT SESSION

1. M. Robert SCHUMAN, Minister for Foreign Affairs of France, welcomed the North Atlantic Council to Paris.

2. Lord ISMAY, Secretary General and Vice Chairman of the Council, thanked M. Schuman on behalf of the Council.

II. CONSIDERATION OF THE APPOINTMENT OF A SUCCESSOR TO GENERAL
EISENHOWER AS SUPREME ALLIED COMMANDER EUROPE (CM(52)1)

3. THE CHAIRMAN said that, from discussions he had had with individual representatives, it seemed clear that the general desire was that one nation should be asked to nominate an officer of its armed forces for consideration by the Council as the successor to General Eisenhower.

4. THE COUNCIL:

(a) Accepted this procedure and

(b) unanimously agreed to request the President of the United States to nominate an officer of the armed forces of the United States for appointment by the North Atlantic Council as Supreme Allied Commander Europe to succeed General Eisenhower.

5. THE COUNCIL then considered a Draft Resolution (CM(52)3) giving effect to its decision.

6. THE CANADIAN REPRESENTATIVE said that he would have preferred the final paragraph of the Draft Resolution to be amended in such a way as to make it quite clear that the appointment of the Supreme Allied Commander Europe was the responsibility of the North Atlantic Council.

7. THE UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE said that his Government entirely accepted the fact that the Council was the ultimate authority for appointing the Supreme Allied Commander. His Government indeed wished it to be known that it was willing to accept an officer of any Member Government whom the Council, as a whole, might approve for this high office.

8. THE CANADIAN REPRESENTATIVE said that, in view of the United States Representative's statement, he was prepared to withdraw his proposal that an amendment should be made to the Draft Resolution.

9. THE CHAIRMAN informed the Council that he had been in touch with Mr. Pearson who had agreed that, in order to save time, the Council should communicate directly with the head of the Government whom it had decided to request to nominate an officer.

10. THE COUNCIL:

(a) Approved a resolution requesting the President of the United States of America to nominate an officer of the armed forces of the United States of America for appointment by the North Atlantic Council as Supreme Allied Commander Europe, to succeed General Eisenhower (subsequently circulated as CM(52)3Final).

- (b) Invited the United States Representative to communicate this resolution to the President of the United States immediately and to inform the Council of the President's reply as soon as it was received.

[The Council then considered Items III to VII, on conclusion of which it went into closed session]

11. THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES informed the meeting, in confidence, of the terms of a message * which had just been received from the President of the United States, in reply to the Council's request, nominating General Ridgway to succeed General Eisenhower.

12. THE UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE added that he had also been informed that, if the Council appointed General Ridgway, the President would, in accordance with General Ridgway's desire, continue to make General Gruenther available as Chief of Staff to SACEUR.

[The Council then adjourned to enable Members to consult their Governments with regard to the Officer nominated by the President. The Council reconvened at 5 p.m.]

13. Each of the Permanent Representatives informed the Chairman that their respective Governments were most willing to appoint General Ridgway as successor to General Eisenhower as Supreme Allied Commander Europe.

14. THE COUNCIL:

- (a) Accepted a resolution appointing General Ridgway as Supreme Allied Commander Europe (subsequently circulated as CM(52)4 Final);
- (b) expressed its great satisfaction that General Gruenther, who had rendered such outstanding services, would remain as Chief of Staff to SACEUR.

15. THE VICE-CHAIRMAN AND SECRETARY GENERAL of the North Atlantic Council and each Permanent Representative then signed copies of the resolution they had approved.

III. PROGRESS REPORT ON THE WORK OF THE EUROPEAN DEFENCE CONFERENCE

16. THE FRENCH REPRESENTATIVE said that it was hoped that the Draft Treaty and its Annexes establishing the E.D.C. would be ready for initialling by heads of Delegations at the end of this week or the beginning of next. Governments would then need about a fortnight for consideration of the draft. These dates were, of course, provisional and they should be treated as confidential.

17. The four main questions that still remained unsettled were:

- (a) Territorial organization, i.e. the relations between the bodies responsible for forces stationed in E.D.C. Member States and the national Governments of those States;

* Annex

- (b) Armaments: the question of the list of armaments the production of which was to be prohibited in the advanced strategic zone;
- (c) Financial: the German financial participation in the defence of the West approved at Lisbon and accepted by Chancellor Adenauer was to include both its contribution to the E.D.C. budget and the costs of the occupation forces. It was far from certain that the figure agreed at Lisbon would cover both these totals.
- (d) The status of the European Forces: the point at issue here was the harmonizing of the status of any E.D.C. Forces which might be stationed in Germany with those of non-E.D.C. Forces in Germany.

18. The second and third points indicated above depended to some extent on decisions to be taken as the result of negotiations outside the competence of the Paris Conference. However, a large measure of agreement had already been reached on all four points, and he did not believe that there was any major obstacle to reaching complete agreement within the time schedule he had indicated.

19. As to relations between NATO and the EDC, agreement at the Paris Conference was now complete, and he was in a position to submit the relevant Articles for consideration by the Council. He suggested that the legal experts of NATO should examine the Articles in question before they were examined by the Council itself.

20. THE COUNCIL:

- (a) Agreed to reconstitute the Legal Working Group;
- (b) instructed the Legal Working Group to examine, as a matter of urgency, the relevant texts dealing with the EDC/NATO relationship; and to hold their first meeting for this purpose on Wednesday, 30th April at 11 a.m.
- (c) agreed that it was necessary to confirm, as soon as the text of the Treaty initialled by the heads of Delegations was available, that the terms of the Treaty were in conformity with the principles approved by the Council at Lisbon.

IV. PERMANENT HEADQUARTERS

21. THE CHAIRMAN referred to the need to consider the question of permanent headquarters for the Organization in the Paris area as soon as possible. The Palais de Chaillot could not continue to be used for more than a year at the most. A number of issues were involved, including the accommodation problem for members of Delegations and the Secretariat.

22. THE COUNCIL:

- (a) Invited the French Representative to communicate any proposals by the French Government to the Chairman as soon as possible.
- (b) Invited the Chairman to convene a small Working Group to examine the question as soon as the proposals of the French Government were known, and to put forward proposals to the Council.

V. CIRCULATION OF PAPERS FOR THE COUNCIL'S CONSIDERATION

23. THE COUNCIL:

Approved in principle a proposal by the Chairman that papers for consideration by the Council, whether produced by Delegations or by the Secretariat, should be circulated seven days in advance of the date on which they were to be discussed, it being understood that this would neither prevent any Delegation from submitting a paper at short notice, nor prevent such a paper from being discussed, if its nature demanded rapid action.

VI. FUTURE MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL

24. THE COUNCIL:

Decided that it should meet weekly on Tuesdays, additional meetings being called when necessary.

VII. COUNCIL RECORDS AND ATTENDANCE AT COUNCIL MEETINGS

25. THE COUNCIL:

- (a) Agreed that records of Council meetings should in principle be as brief as possible, and
- (b) agreed to restrict the members attending meetings to the minimum necessary for the efficient working of the Council.

VIII. NEXT MEETING

26. THE COUNCIL agreed to hold its next meeting at 10 a.m. on Tuesday 6th May.

Palais de Chaillot,
Paris, XVIe.

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ANNEX TO
SUMMARY RECORD
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Message from the President of the United States to the North Atlantic
Council

"Pursuant to the request of the North Atlantic Council that I nominate an officer of the Armed Forces of the United States for appointment by the North Atlantic Council as SACEUR to succeed General of the Army Dwight D. Eisenhower I hereby nominate General Matthew B. Ridgway. I feel that General Ridgway is particularly well qualified to perform the duties of Supreme Commander. His service in the European Theater in World War II and his leadership of the United Nations forces in Korea have been outstanding. His recent experience as Commander in Chief of the United Nations Command for Korea and as Supreme Commander Allied Powers in Japan have given him a broad background of international military responsibility. General Ridgway brings exceptional knowledge of present-day combat, and of modern training needs and training methods to the common task of preparing our collective forces for the defense of Europe.

"I have every confidence that General Ridgway can make an outstanding contribution to our common defense efforts."

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