

CONSEIL DE L'ATLANTIQUE NORD  
NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL

NATO UNCLASSIFIED  
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6th August, 1956

~~NATO SECRET~~  
SUMMARY RECORD  
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Summary Record of a Restricted meeting of the  
Council held at the Palais de Chaillot, Paris, XVIe,  
on 3rd August, 1956

PRESENT

Chairman: Baron A. Bentinck

Baron J. Papeians de Morchoven (Belgium)	Mr. N. Hommel (Luxembourg)
Mr. K.J. Burbridge (Canada)	Mr. M.F. Vigeveno (Netherlands)
Mr. S. Sandager Jeppesen (Denmark)	Mr. K. Raeder (Norway)
Mr. P. Landy (France)	Mr. A. Martins (Portugal)
Mr. F. Krapf (Germany)	Mr. O. Benler (Turkey)
Mr. M. Melas (Greece)	Mr. N.J.A. Cheetham (United Kingdom)
Mr. H. Kröyer (Iceland)	Mr. E.M. Martin (United States)
Mr. M. Pinna Caboni (Italy)	

INTERNATIONAL STAFF

Mr. A. Casardi (Assistant Secretary General for  
Political Affairs)  
Mr. J. Murray Mitchell (Assistant Secretary General for  
Production and Logistics)  
Mr. J. Orme (Acting Assistant Secretary General for  
Economics and Finance)  
Mr. J. Starnes (Acting Executive Secretary)

ALSO PRESENT

Major General T.W. Parker (Standing Group Representative)

CONTENTS

<u>Item</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Page No.</u>
I.	Withdrawal of forces from the area of NATO Command to which they are assigned or earmarked	2

~~NATO SECRET~~

I. WITHDRAWAL OF FORCES FROM THE AREA OF NATO COMMAND  
TO WHICH THEY ARE ASSIGNED OR EARMARKED

1. The UNITED KINGDOM REPRESENTATIVE said he had been instructed to make the following statement to the Council:

"I have to inform the Council that in view of the present situation in the Middle East, my Government feel compelled to withdraw certain individuals and units from the area of NATO Command to which they are assigned or earmarked (i.e. United Kingdom or Germany) in order to strengthen the United Kingdom forces available in the Middle East.

"Detailed information of these individuals and units and of other units which may possibly have to be withdrawn at a later stage, have been communicated to the appropriate NATO military authorities. I am sure the Council will understand that for obvious security reasons this detailed information must, in present circumstances, be confined to the military authorities immediately concerned. No doubt, however, in accordance with paragraph 8(c) of C-M(55)82(Final) the NATO military authorities will, in due course, provide the Council with an estimate of the military effects both of the withdrawals which have been decided on and of those which may possibly have to be made later.

"I can assure the Council that as many as possible of the units required are being found from the United Kingdom and that we are not planning to withdraw more units or individuals from Germany than is absolutely essential.

"I can also assure the Council that it is the intention of my Government, subject, of course, to any overall modifications in the NATO defence pattern which may emerge from the reappraisal now being undertaken, to restore the position of our assigned and earmarked forces as soon as circumstances in the Middle East permit."

He added that it was quite possible that questions might be asked by the Press concerning these troop movements. In the event that the Press asked if any United Kingdom forces were being moved from Germany, he suggested that it would be sufficient to say that there was a regular NATO procedure to cover such eventualities, and that there was no question that the United Kingdom Government would not conform to this procedure. In reply to a question by the German Representative, he said he was unable to say when the units which would be withdrawn from Germany could be replaced. He suggested there was a possibility, however, that the United Kingdom authorities might seek to fill the gaps caused by the withdrawals from reserve forces.

2. The NETHERLANDS REPRESENTATIVE said he appreciated that it might be difficult for the United Kingdom authorities to provide details on the units withdrawn; nevertheless he hoped that the NATO military authorities would provide the Council with an estimate of the military effects of the proposed alterations at the earliest possible date.

3. After a brief discussion, the COUNCIL:
- (1) took note of the statement by the United Kingdom Representative;
  - (2) invited the Standing Group Representative to request the military authorities to carry out the assessment called for in paragraph 8(c) of document C-M(55)82(Final) as soon as possible;
  - (3) agreed to meet again to consider the estimate referred to in (2) above when it is completed.

Palais de Chaillot,  
Paris, XVIe.

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