

NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL

FOURTH SESSION

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COUNCIL DOCUMENT NO. 1.

(D- 4/1)

15th May, 1950.Report of the International Working GrouponReview of Progress in Implementing the North Atlantic
Treaty in the Year Since Its Signature

In connection with item 4, the attached review of progress has been drawn up by the Working Group in order to provide the Council with a brief summary of accomplishments and to point out the areas where further action may be required. The Working Group suggests that this paper not be formally discussed, but that it be used in conjunction with the Council's consideration of the reports from the Defense Committee and the Defence Financial and Economic Committee and in determining what steps to take next.

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Secretary General

Lancaster House,
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10th May, 1950.

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REVIEW OF PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTING THE NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY IN THE YEAR SINCE ITS SIGNATURE

1. In the year which has elapsed since the signature of the North Atlantic Treaty, the following progress has been achieved:

(a) The Treaty has been ratified by all signatories and has entered into force.

(b) The defence organization of the Treaty has been established and has started work.

(c) A strategic concept has been adopted as the basis for the defensive planning of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

(d) The Standing Group, using a date for planning purposes only of 1954, has produced on the basis of regional plans a first draft of a medium-term plan for the defense of the North Atlantic area. This plan and the estimate of the forces required to support it have been approved both by the Military Committee and the Defence Committee as "a first approximation". The Military Committee has already instructed the Standing Group and the Regional Planning Groups to refine this first edition of the plan and attached force estimates with a view to achieving the maximum economy compatible with the essential security of the North Atlantic area.

(e) Work has been started by the military planning bodies to prepare short-term emergency war plans on the basis of forces presently considered available.

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(f) A security system for the North Atlantic Treaty organization has been agreed upon. It is not yet fully operative, but will be as soon as technical arrangements have been completed.

2. The military planning bodies are awaiting information from the Defence Financial and Economic Committee on what financial and economic resources would be available for defence purposes, while at the same time, the Defence Financial and Economic Committee are awaiting detailed information on the cost of an integrated defence program. In order to emerge from this vicious circle, the Defence Financial and Economic Committee has now officially requested the Defence Committee to prepare an estimate of the finances required for the defence of the North Atlantic countries, setting forth priorities. The Defence Committee has also requested the Defence Financial and Economic Committee to examine to what extent the North Atlantic Treaty powers could potentially increase their defence expenditures and to consider new and more adequate financial and economic measures for implementing an integrated defence program.

3. There have been certain accomplishments which materially contribute to the ability of the North Atlantic Treaty powers to defend the North Atlantic area:

(a) The governments of the North Atlantic Treaty countries have increased military production. Their estimates of future production show that they

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plan to increase it still further.

(b) In particular, the members of the Western European Regional Planning Group, as parties to the Brussels Treaty, had already agreed before the North Atlantic Treaty entered into force on an additional military production program. This program is already showing results.

(c) The U.S. Mutual Defence Assistance Program has entered into effect and supplies are arriving in the recipient countries in Europe.

4. However, the main fact which emerges from this review is that, while much has been done, the North Atlantic Treaty powers have still to put into effect an integrated program for increasing their forces to the size required for the implementation of a medium-term plan. Certain steps looking toward completion of plans and their implementation have been taken by the Defence Committee and the DFEC are outlined in the reports of these bodies to the Council. Further steps on which Council action or action by governments is recommended are also outlined in these reports. These reports are transmitted with the Working Group's comments in subsequent documents in this series.

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