

NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL
FIFTH SESSION
NEW YORK, SEPTEMBER, 1950

NATO UNCLASSIFIED

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SUMMARY RECORD NO. 5
C5-R/5
19 September 1950
New York

and
PUBLIC DISCLOSED

Summary Record of the Fifth Meeting
held in New York, 18 September 1950
at 10:30 a.m.

Present

UNITED STATES

Dean Acheson (Chairman)
Charles M. Spofford (Deputy)

BELGIUM

Paul Van Zeeland
Fernand Van Langenhove (Deputy)

LUXEMBOURG

Joseph Bech
M. Andre Clasen (Deputy)

CANADA

Lester B. Pearson
L. D. Wilgress (Deputy)

NETHERLANDS

D. V. Stikker
Jonkheer A.W.L. Tjarda van
Starkenborgh-Stachouwer (Deputy)

DENMARK

Henrik de Kauffman
M.A. Vestbirk (Alternate Deputy)

NORWAY

Halvard Lange
Dag Bryn (Deputy)

FRANCE

Robert Schuman
Hervé Alphand (Deputy)

PORTUGAL

Paulo Cunha
Henrique Queiroz (Alternate
Deputy)

ICELAND

Bjarni Benediktsson
M. Gunnlaugur Petursson (Deputy)

UNITED KINGDOM

Ernest Bevin
Sir Derrick Hoyer-Millar
(Deputy)

ITALY

Count Carlo Sforza
Gastone Guidotti (Deputy)

SECRETARIAT

T.A.G. Charlton (Secretary)
L.F. Morrissey (Assistant Secretary)

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I. Relationship between NATO and OEEC: Resolution: (Docu-
ment C5-D/7 Revised).

1. The Council had before them a Resolution on the relationship between NATO and OEEC.

2. Mr. BEVIN said that he did not wish to cause any delay in this matter, but he was not in a position to agree to the draft resolution as worded. He said that member countries should be given the opportunity in the first instance to measure the economic effects of the Medium Term Defence Plan on their own economy and having made that assessment decide their individual position. He did not wish the resolution to exclude this.

3. It was agreed that the resolution be amended to cover this point and also to provide that the question should be referred to the Deputies for study. The resolution as amended was adopted. (Document C5-D/7 Final).

II. Control of Raw Materials: Resolution: (Document C5-D/4
Revised)

4. The Resolution was adopted by the Council without amendment (Document C5-D/4 Final).

III. Medium Term Defence Plan: Resolution: (Document C5-D/6
Revised)

5. The Resolution was adopted without amendment. (Docu-
ment C5-D/6 Final)

IV. Questions affecting the Defence of Western Europe: (Item
4 of the Agenda, for the Session)

6. At the request of the Chairman, Mr. SPOFFORD reported the results of the meeting of the Council Deputies held on the 17th September, 1950. He said that the Deputies were of the opinion that an exchange of views on the general principles underlying the United States proposals for a Unified Force would be helpful, and the Deputies had had a discussion of these matters at their meeting. The discussion was quite extensive and he thought proved most useful. The two phases of the problem, namely the structure of the Unified Force and the German problem were considered and in this respect the Deputies came to the conclusion that in some cases further consideration and consultation with Governments would be required.

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7. The Council Deputies had asked him to recommend on their behalf that the Council recess for a short period, possibly for a week or ten days, to enable such consultation with Governments to take place. He added that in the opinion of the Council Deputies it would be useful if the Council at this meeting were to continue its discussion of Item 4 on the Agenda so that each Minister could express his views on the two phases of the problem, particularly with regard to the first phase, namely the establishment of a Unified Force.

8. Mr. SPOFFORD also reported that in accordance with the Council's request the Council Deputies had prepared a draft press communique for their consideration, which would announce that the Council would recess for a short time.

9. The Council decided to recess subject to recall by the Chairman, on the understanding that it was hoped to call a further meeting within the next two weeks.

10. The Council decided to continue discussion of Item 4 of the Agenda for the session.

11. Mr. VAN ZEELAND stated that Belgium was willing to accept wholeheartedly the principle of an Integrated Unified Force and that such a Force should be under a unified command and that the supreme commander should be assisted by an International combined staff. He thought that the Force should be strong enough and sufficiently developed to resist any aggression and be given the most modern equipment. He expressed the opinion that the maximum effort should be made in order to cooperate in the production of such material. It followed that there were certain financial and economic problems which would be created by the building up of such a Force but hoped that the solution to these problems would be found.

12. He noted with satisfaction that all Member Countries of the organisation will participate in the building up of the Forces and the decision of the United States Government to carry a full share of the constitution of such a Force by sending additional troops to Europe. He pointed out that for Belgium, as for many other countries, this question raised many problems, questions bearing on its interior policy and problems of a juridical nature. These questions he thought might also involve constitutional ~~changes~~ *problems.*

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13. Mr. PEARSON stated that in so far as the question of German participation was concerned there was little he wished to add to what he had already said on the matter. Although it was the general wish of the Council that a decision should be taken at this time on the broad principle of the association, in some form, of Germany with our collective defence efforts, he understood the difficulties which have made it necessary to postpone any final views, until the Council resumed its session in a few days. He said that he was in agreement with the proposals for the establishment of an Integrated Force for the defence of Western Europe. He thought that this would result in a very useful reorganisation and simplification of the present rather cumbersome

machinery under the Treaty, which in his opinion was desirable. The closest liaison between the Standing Group, the Defence Committee, and the Council was essential particularly because only France, the United Kingdom and the United States are represented on the Standing Group. He also wished to propose to the Council that consideration be given to the idea of simplifying the whole Council structure by doing away or at least considering doing away with other Ministerial Committees and form one North Atlantic Ministerial Council on which could be represented any Ministers of the participating Governments who may be concerned with questions which come before that Council. He realized that this suggestion had important implications and the Council would not wish to consider the question at this session.

14. Mr. DE KAUFFMANN said that he had listened with great interest to statements and thoughts expressed by Ministers. He said that the Council would understand that the position of Denmark and Norway in this matter were in most ways very similar. He had agreed with Mr. Lange earlier in the day that since the latter intended to ask several specific questions relating to the proposals he would delay expressing his views on the questions of the Integrated Force and German participation until after Mr. Lange had spoken.

15. Mr. SCHUMAN said that he hoped that even on the problem of German participation the attitude of his Government would not be purely a negative one. He trusted that further study of the questions involved would enable all countries to arrive at agreement. He recalled that at the meeting on the 16th September he had said that the French Government was in favour of measures being adopted by which Germany could cooperate in the common defence. He wished to suggest to the Council one way in which Germany could help would be for German manpower to be used to build land fortifications and defence works in Germany on the line to be defended in the East. He thought that the Allied High Commissioners might be asked by the Council to study this suggestion. He reminded the Council that at the present time there was considerable unemployment in Germany and if this idea could be developed and an announcement made in the next few days that it was the intention to use German manpower in this way, it would produce a favourable effect in Germany.

16. Mr. Schuman concluded by saying that he did not wish to add anything to the statement he made on the 16th September on his Government's attitude to the questions which the United States proposal involves.

17. Mr. BENEDIKTSSON said that as his country has no military forces his country was not directly concerned with the proposal to establish an Integrated Force with German participation. He agreed, however, that the idea of establishing an Integrated Force was a good one and added that the decision of the Council to recess was useful and would he was sure, permit the Ministers to clear with their Governments the many questions raised.

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18. Count SFORZA said that his Government entirely agreed with the principle of an Integrated Force under a Supreme Commander assisted by a Combined General Staff and hoped that the Defence Committee would be asked to study the implications of the proposal. He agreed that there was an urgent need for ensuring closer and fuller cooperation between the Standing Group and those countries, members of NATO, not represented on that Group. He wished to be associated with the remarks of Mr. Schuman with regard to the proposal to employ German manpower for the building of defence works.

19. Mr. BECH expressed his general agreement with the proposal to set up an Integrated Force on the lines suggested in the United States memorandum. He pointed out, however, that there were several political and constitutional problems affecting his Government's position which would require further study. He stated that he was not in a position at that time to give a definite view of his Government on the question of German participation in the defence of Western Europe, but expressed appreciation to members of the Council for the points which had been raised during discussion which had cleared many of the doubts which had existed in his mind when the proposals were first considered.

20. Mr. STIKKER said that he did not wish to add anything to the statement which he had made at the meeting on the 16th September with regard to German participation in the defence of Europe, but with regard to the question of Integrated Force he wished to state that his Government agreed in principle with the proposal. He agreed that an executive authority on an international level would be necessary and that consequently the NAT nations would have to surrender a certain part of their sovereignty. He said that the Netherlands were willing to make this sacrifice, but wanted to be assured that each participating country would be advised with regard to all developments and that each would have full opportunity to express its views.

21. He also wished to make a reference to the membership of the North Atlantic Ocean Regional Planning Group which he said it was his understanding there would only be four members, in which the Netherlands were not included. Since the Netherlands have a large Merchant Service and a Navy his Government attached great importance to being given the opportunity of taking part in the work of that planning group.

22. Mr. LANGE said that he wished to put three specific questions with regard to the United States proposal (Document C5-D/6). The questions which Mr. Lange put were as follows:-

(1) Mr. LANGE referred to the third paragraph of the Document (C5-D/6) in which it is stated that "the Integrated Force in Europe must be adequate to ensure the adequate defence of Western Europe, including Western Germany". He asked what was meant by Western Europe and which areas were covered by this?

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(2) Regarding the training of forces allocated to the Integrated Force, he asked whether the supreme authority would decide on such matters as the period of training and the system of training the troops allocated by each Member Country to the Force.

(3) He asked whether it was possible at this stage to say as to how the creation of the Integrated Force was likely to affect the present Regional Planning Group? Would it supersede them, all of them, completely or not? He added that he wanted to know what would happen to the North Atlantic Ocean Regional Planning Group. He asked this question because Norway is a member of the North European Planning Group which it would seem might be superseded completely.

25. The Council adjourned until 3:00 p.m.

New York
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