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NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL DEPUTIES

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SUMMARY RECORD:

D-R(51)10

CR. ENG./FR.

16th February, 1951

Summary Record of a meeting of the Council
Deputies held at 13, Belgrave Square, London,
S.W.1. on Wednesday, 14th February, 1951 at
3.0. p.m.

PRESENT:

Chairman - Mr. C.M. Spofford (United States)

Vicomte Obert de Thieusies (Belgium)	Mr. S.F. Rae (Canada)
Count Eduard Reventlow (Denmark)	M. E. Burin des Roziers (France)
M. G. Petursson (Iceland)	Signor A. Rossi Longhi (Italy)
M. G. Heisbourg (Luxembourg)	Jonkheer A.W.L. Tjarda van Starkenborgh-Stachouwer (Netherlands)
M. D. Bryn (Norway)	Dr. R.E. Ulrich (Portugal) /

Sir Frederick Hoyer-Millar (United Kingdom)

SECRETARIAT

Mr. T.A.G. Charlton
M. J.C. Debray

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I. APPOINTMENT OF SUPREME COMMANDER ATLANTIC

1. THE CHAIRMAN recalled that the Defence Committee had recommended that the Allied Supreme Commander Atlantic should be an American Officer and that he should be nominated as soon as possible after the appointment of the Supreme Commander Europe. Those recommendations had been approved by the North Atlantic Council. The President of the United States had accordingly nominated Admiral William Fechteler to be Supreme Commander Atlantic.

2. As the Defence Committee was not sitting, a procedure had been adopted which consisted of requesting the Defence Ministers to give their approval individually. The Council Deputies also had to approve this nomination in the name of the North Atlantic Council. It would appear to be preferable for the Council not to take a final decision until all the replies of the Defence Ministers had been received. Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Italy, Luxembourg, Portugal and the United States had already signified their approval.

3. The Deputies of the Netherlands and Iceland announced that their Governments also approved this appointment.

4. It was agreed that the Deputies would take a final decision at a future meeting.

II. ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INTERNATIONAL STAFF AND AN INTERNATIONAL BUDGET FOR NATO.

(Previous reference: Summary Record: D-R(51)9, Item V).

5. Further information was requested on a number of points concerning the terms of reference of the Working Group on the International Budget (D-D(51)45).

6. In paragraph 3(d) the terms "personnel and administration" signified that the Administrative Office would have to deal with general questions of salaries, contracts, etc. The phrase "the required administrative services" signified that the Administrative Office would have to deal with general questions of salaries, contracts, etc. The phrase "the required administrative services" signified that the Administrative Office would deal with general "supply" questions (accommodation, office equipment etc.).

7. It was pointed out that the acceptance of this document only meant that the Deputies were prepared to take it as a basis for their discussions but that, particularly in view of the fact that a number of Deputies had not yet received instructions from their Governments, they were not thereby committed to accepting the principles of an International Budget.

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8. The Deputies then considered the Draft Resolution prepared by the Chairman on the establishment of an international staff for NATO (D-D(51)44). In the course of the discussion in which several Deputies took part, the following points were raised.

9. Two proposals were made regarding the method of approaching the problem: one was that the various Working Groups instructed to study each of the sections of the proposed organizations should meet first and, in the light of the reports which they prepared, the Deputies would then explore the possibility of integrating these various sections into one integrated organization and the manner in which coordination could be carried out. In order to know how such coordination would be carried out and in particular to decide whether it would be the responsibility of the Secretariat in the limited sense or the head of the International Staff, it was essential to determine first of all the size and terms of reference of the various sections. On the other hand, it was pointed out that if the Working Groups operated without having a general idea of the way in which coordination would be carried out, they would be obliged to make reservations on certain points. Moreover, it would be very valuable if the problem of authority over the organization as a whole were solved at the outset, so that the Working Groups could be guided by an agreement in principle previously reached by the Deputies.

10. THE CHAIRMAN stated that in his opinion all the branches as a whole should be coordinated. Before considering how this coordination could be carried out, a decision should first be taken on the scope and size of each of the sections proposed.

11. THE UNITED KINGDOM DEPUTY enquired whether the international staff of the Defence Production Board, comprising experts and technical advisers, would be part of the Organization, and if it would accordingly be subject to the joint authority of the body to which the Deputies had referred.

12. THE CHAIRMAN said that he had proposed the fusion of the Secretariat services of the various NATO bodies. Insofar as the technical advisers and experts were concerned, the problem was more difficult. There was no doubt that, from the administrative point of view, (salaries, contracts etc.) they should be subject to common regulations. But they should of course be primarily responsible as regards their work to the Coordinator and Board.

13. THE CANADIAN DEPUTY remarked that it would be interesting to know from the outset the size of the international staff. It would be advisable to avoid setting up services which were not absolutely necessary. He was of the opinion that the Secretariats proper should be integrated as far as possible.

14. A number of Deputies requested further information on the relations of the Chief of the International Staff with the heads of the other branches. Would the authority of this Chief extend to the other branches? What position would he occupy/

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occupy between the Chairman and the various branches of the aforementioned organization? Was the term "international staff" well chosen, for it suggested that the other branches would not be international, which would not be the case?

15. THE CHAIRMAN replied that he had no objection to finding another name for what he had called the "International Staff". The Chairman could not of course supervise personally the operation of the whole organization, but he was responsible for it and should retain that function and not delegate it. To assist him in this function, however, he would be able to call on a representative who would be the Chief of the international staff and would exercise authority over all the branches of the organization. It went without saying that the international staff would not be a private General Staff for the Chairman.

16. THE FRENCH DEPUTY said that the French Government agreed to the terms of reference of the Working Group formed to study these questions as set out in Document: D-D(51)45.

17. He would be glad to receive further information on some points in the Draft Resolution, D-D(51)44. Paragraph 1 (c) of this document provided that the international staff would have to make recommendations and take action to follow up the implementation of decisions taken by the Deputies. As far as France was concerned, any action of this kind should be taken through the instrumentality of the Foreign Minister. The most expedient procedure would therefore be for the member of the international staff concerned to establish contact with the French Deputy first.

18. He would be glad to know the date on which the Working Group on statistical problems would meet.

19. The French Delegation was favourably disposed to the formation of a central Secretariat, but pointed out that the problem could only be settled when a final decision had been taken on the location of the various NATC bodies.

20. With regard to the way in which the various sections proposed could be integrated, he considered that the matter could be discussed either by the Deputies or by the Sub-Committee on Administrative Questions, after the completion of the discussions of the Working Group.

21. THE CHAIRMAN replied that he agreed that any action following up the implementation of the decisions of the Deputies should be taken through the instrumentality of the Deputy of the country concerned.

22. With regard to statistics, he stated that the information which would enable the Working Group to meet would be available in the near future and that a meeting could therefore be called very shortly.

23./

23. THE CHAIRMAN summoned the discussion up to that point by saying that the Deputies appeared to be generally agreed on the following paragraphs of document D-D(51)44: paragraphs 2 (statistics,) 3 (information service), 4 (central Secretariat), 5 (administrative office). He proposed that these paragraphs should be adopted and that the discussion should then be resumed on paragraph 1.

24. THE UNITED KINGDOM DEPUTY recalled that, with regard to the statistics service, he had already requested that action should be taken to ensure that a central service should be established, covering all NATO bodies, in order to prevent independent statistical services springing up within each NATO body, which might result in all the services dealing with the same question, without the necessary coordination between them being ensured.

25. THE NETHERLANDS DEPUTY emphasised that not only the size of the proposed International Staff but the size of all these sections should be kept as small as possible.

26. He had interpreted paragraph 1 to mean that the International Staff would be personal assistants to the Chairman, but he now understood that they would work for the Council Deputies and the NAT Organization as a whole. Furthermore, he had not understood that the Chief of the Special International Staff was intended to have control over the other sections of the proposed NATO staff, but he had gathered from the Chairman's remarks that this was in fact his intention. In order to make the position quite clear he suggested that the last sub paragraph of paragraph 1 might be reworded to read:

"The Chairman shall designate a Chief of the Special International Staff who, subject to general guidance from him, shall direct the work of the International Staff and coordinate the work of the staffs of the Council Deputies and all NATO bodies."

27. THE CHAIRMAN, while confirming that it was his intention that the Chief of the Special International Staff should have certain coordinating and controlling functions vis-à-vis the other sections of the proposed NATO staff, said that the revised wording suggested by the Netherlands Deputy went rather further than he had intended insofar as it would interpose an additional echelon between the Chairman of the Council Deputies and the heads of sections of the NATO staff. His idea was that the Chairman should retain the responsibility for directing the work of the NATO staff as a whole, but that a "Chief of Staff" as opposed to a "Deputy Commander" should be appointed who would assist the Chairman in this particular task and be in a position to direct and coordinate the work of the permanent organization in the absence of the Chairman. The proposed amendment, however, would place the primary responsibility for the direction of the staff on the Chief Assistant rather than on the Chairman. He agreed that the present wording might with advantage be clarified, and he was prepared to submit a redraft of paragraph 1 together with a draft memorandum explaining in more detail what was intended, which could be considered by the Council Deputies at their next meeting.

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28. THE COUNCIL DEPUTIES:

- (1) Accepted the proposals set out in paragraphs 2, 4 and 5 of Document: D-D(51)44.
- (2) Invited the Chairman to circulate an amendment to paragraph 1 of Document: D-D(51)44 on the lines indicated above.
- (3) Agreed that all the Working Groups which would be studying the various aspects of this question should be instructed to give particular attention to the desirability of limiting the staff to the numbers required to meet immediate needs, while at the same time allowing sufficient flexibility to allow further expansion.

III. PROGRESS REPORT TO THE DEPUTIES ON THE NATO INFORMATION SERVICE.

29. The Council Deputies had before them a memorandum by the Director of Information Document: D-D(51)38 which contained a report of what the NATO Information Service had been able to accomplish with its limited resources during the preceding three months.

30. The following points were mentioned in discussion:

- (a) With reference to paragraph (4) the Council Deputies were informed that the basic explanatory document on NATO, which was being prepared by a writer loaned from E.C.A. Paris, was not intended for publication but was intended to provide the Information Service with basic factual material which could be extracted and given to newspapers, magazines and broadcasting companies for use in the preparation of articles or radio programmes.
- (b) With regard to the sample leaflets, posters and other exhibits which were made available by E.C.A. it was explained that these were being prepared under NATO supervision, using the existing machinery within the E.C.A. office in Paris. The sample material thus provided would be made available to national information services to assist them in publicising the aims and objectives of the NAT Organization as a whole.

31. THE COUNCIL DEPUTIES:

Took note of Document: D-D(51)38.

IV. PROPOSAL FOR NATO INFORMATION SERVICE. *Conference*

32. The Council Deputies had before them a memorandum by the Director of Information, suggesting that a conference of senior information officials from NATO countries be convened in London with the purpose of launching more effective NATO information campaigns in member countries (Document: D-D(51)41).

33. THE NETHERLANDS DEPUTY said that his Government would certainly wish to examine this proposal very closely. He felt some doubt about the wisdom and usefulness of summoning a high level information conference of this kind. In the first place the meetings of the North Atlantic Council itself attracted a great deal of publicity and he doubted whether it would be wise to court further world wide publicity by convening a conference of this nature which might well have the undesirable result of less publicity being given to the meetings of Ministers. In particular, he had serious doubts about the wisdom of inviting General Eisenhower to open the conference. Information was primarily a political and not a military matter and it seemed inappropriate therefore for the conference to be opened by the Supreme Commander. Apart from this, to invite General Eisenhower to open the conference would inevitably attract wide publicity.

On the substance of the proposal he was not clear whether any great advantage would be derived from the summoning of the conference. The Director of Information already had every opportunity under his terms of reference to consult the heads of national information services in the NATO countries and if this did not suffice the Deputies were always available and willing to extend the maximum assistance to him. In view of the above he suggested that the memorandum should in the first instance be submitted to governments to ascertain their general reactions. If governments were in favour of a conference, the details could be considered further by the Council Deputies.

34. The following points were mentioned in discussion:

(a) There was general agreement that the main object of calling this conference was not to attract publicity but to create opportunity for an informative exchange of views between high level information experts in the NATO countries on the best methods to adopt for increasing the effectiveness of NATO publicity and propaganda. The conference should be on the official level and representatives should be of sufficiently high standing to ensure that their views would be given full weight by their respective governments.

(b) In the light of (a) above, the consensus of opinion was that it would be unwise to arrange for the conference to be opened by the Supreme Commander or by any other senior NATO statesman. Such an arrangement would inevitably tend to magnify the importance of the conference in the eyes of the public, who would expect immediate spectacular results from it.

(c) The view was expressed that a widespread announcement of the summoning of this conference would warn the Soviet bloc that a NATO propaganda counter offensive might be expected at an early date and enable them to make their preparations accordingly.

(d) It was important that the programme of work for the conference should be submitted to the Deputies for their approval and that the topics for discussion should be clearly defined.

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35. THE COUNCIL DEPUTIES:

- (1) Instructed the Director of Information to revise Document D-D(51)41 in the light of the points raised in discussion.
- (2) Agreed to reconsider the revised memorandum prepared under (1) above at a future meeting after governments had been given an opportunity of expressing their views.

V. THE WAR OF IDEAS.

36. THE FRENCH REPRESENTATIVE, reported that the Working Group which had been set up to prepare the ground for the forthcoming Deputies discussion on the war of ideas had held its first meeting that morning. He reminded Deputies that the object of the Working Group was to limit the field of the proposed discussion by drawing up a series of specific headings on which Deputies consideration of the problem could be focussed. This has been proved to be a difficult task. The Working Group had agreed to eliminate from this discussion any propaganda action to be taken in the Iron Curtain countries and in other non NATO member countries. Subsequently they had decided that it would be necessary to make a distinction between publicity on the one hand, and propaganda on the other, and also a distinction between topics and methods under both of these heads. With regard to publicity, one of the principle objectives was clearly to inspire confidence in NATO countries in the defence preparations which were being made. With regard to propaganda, it was hoped that agreement could be reached amongst member countries to concentrate on one or more common themes. To this end each delegation was being invited to state what themes were being used in their respective countries.

37. The Working Group proposed to discuss the publicity aspect on Tuesday 20th February, and the propaganda aspect on Thursday 22nd February. As a result of these two meetings it was hoped that a short report could be presented to the Council Deputies by Monday, 26th February which it was hoped would take the form of specific heads for discussion.

38. Attention was drawn to the apparent overlapping between the heads for discussion which the Working Group hoped to submit to the Deputies, and the Agenda for the proposed NATO information conference discussed under the preceding item. It was agreed however that this did not obviate the need for a full discussion by the Deputies, and that the outcome of their deliberations might well be of considerable assistance in drawing up the agenda for the proposed information conference. In this connexion it was stressed that the Council Deputies had a definite role to fulfil in the information field, namely to reach agreement on the general lines of information policy to be adopted and the field to be covered. They should not, however, be expected to embark on detailed discussions on the merits or demerits of the various techniques which might be employed.

39. THE COUNCIL DEPUTIES:

Invited the Working Group to proceed on the lines suggested by the French representative.

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VI. NEXT MEETING.

40. It was agreed that the next meeting should be held on Monday, 19th February at 3 p.m.

41. THE CHAIRMAN said that he hoped that it would be possible to make further progress on the Canadian proposal for NATO reorganization. He also suggested that it would be useful if Deputies could decide at that meeting which topics of general political interest should be selected for future discussion.

13, Belgrave Square,
London, S.W.1.

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