

THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN LIVE OAK AND NATO PLANNING

The instructions of General Norstad by the Four Powers do not seem to be in line with what the Secretary of State Dean Rusk has stated to the Council during its session of 8th August. I quote below:

"Because the situation can now be visualised somewhat more concretely than formerly in terms of dates and events, and because of our growing strength, military contingency plans are being reviewed. In this review, which will be comprehensive and intense, we count on the growing involvement and support of NATO political and military authorities. The military contingency planning group known as Live Oak is being brought into the SHAPE area, and we can expect close co-ordination of that planning with NATO as a whole. The problem of Berlin and access to it may in the first instance rest on the occupying powers, but beyond the first instance we believe it to be a NATO problem."

The statement indicates clearly two things:

- (1) the Berlin problem and the military defence of the access is to be a NATO problem beyond the first instance during which it rests on the occupying powers;
- (2) Live Oak - that is to say, the military contingency planning group - is being brought into the SHAPE area, and the Secretary of State added that he expected close co-ordination of planning with NATO as a whole.

Now, it is clear that the instructions of the Four Powers to General Norstad cannot be construed as a fair implementation of the statement quoted above. Live Oak is not to be replaced by NATO planning; see, for instance, paragraph 5 (5) of the instructions when, about the Berlin defence plan, the instructions stated that "this will require co-ordination between Live Oak and the three Ambassadors in Bonn."

If Live Oak were to be replaced by NATO planning in general and broad terms, this sentence would not be read as it stands. On the basis of Mr Dean Rusk's statement to the Council of 8th August, the instructions by the Four Powers to General Norstad can be easily

criticised and many comments can be asked in order to bring these instructions more in line with the views expressed at that time by one of the speakers of the Four Powers concerned.

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