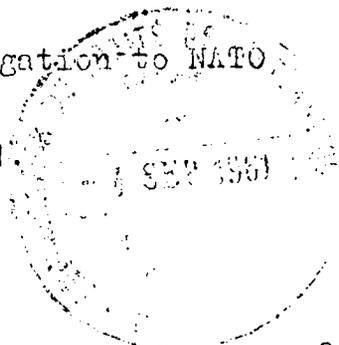


24275/135/61⁶United Kingdom Delegation to NATO
PARIS.

September 4, 1961.



Dear Secretary General

In his statement to the North Atlantic Council of August 8, Mr. Dean Rusk suggested a number of measures which member Governments might take to strengthen their forces in connection with the situation in Berlin. Subsequently on August 23, at your invitation, SACEUR gave the Council his assessment of the military situation and of the military measures he considered necessary to meet it. SACEUR's detailed proposals for national contributions to the military build-up were circulated by you after this meeting.

In my statement to the Council of August 8, I summarised the measures that Her Majesty's Government felt able to take at once for the build-up of United Kingdom forces. As my colleagues will have seen a number of these measures have already been put into effect and public announcements of them have already been made. Shortage of trained manpower makes it impossible to improve on these measures in the time scale laid down if the build up is to be maintained over a long period. To attempt to do so might involve unacceptable risks elsewhere in the world or serious impairment of the efficiency of the forces. The United Kingdom wish to reiterate however their readiness to recall reservists and to embody the territorial army in an emergency to put their forces on a war footing.

Her Majesty's Government are undertaking a thorough re-examination of the whole military problem in the light of the detailed proposals made by SACEUR in order to see what additional measures if any might be taken in the longer term. Meanwhile in response to Mr. Rusk's suggestion various measures are in hand. The United Kingdom have plans for providing additional air and ground crews from non-operational units. In this connexion and with SACEUR's requirements in view R.A.F. Hunter and Canberra reconnaissance and Hunter and Javelin fighter squadrons in Germany have already been brought up to full strength and the Canberra Strike Aircraft will be at full strength by the end of September. The United Kingdom are also making administrative and other preparations for the swift call-up of reserve units, are reviewing war reserve stocks and the procurement of supplies and equipment, and are overhauling mobilization plans in general.

I am sending a copy of this letter to each Permanent Representative and to the Standing Group Representative.

Yours sincerely
F.S. Tomlinson
(F.S. Tomlinson)

His Excellency Mr. D.U. Stikker,
Secretary General,
OTAN/NATO.