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SUPREME ALLIED COMMANDER EUROPE  
PARIS, FRANCE

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6 November 1961

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Dear Mr. President:

Since my initial evaluation of the country response to "Plan of Action: NATO Europe," I have received replies from Greece and Turkey and additional information from Belgium and The Netherlands. I have, therefore, attached hereto analyses of the Greek and Turkish replies and revised analyses of replies from Belgium and The Netherlands.

The actions forecast by the Belgian reply and the decisions taken by The Netherlands, while most welcome, are not such as to alter substantially my assessment of forces in the Central Region.

I have also been informed that the United States plans to increase the strength of the United States Army in Europe by 37,000 troops in addition to the 3,000 previously announced. This increase will considerably improve the capability of the United States Army for sustained operations.

In the Southern Region, the efforts of Greece and Turkey are appreciated; however, I urge that prompt consideration be given to increasing the number of technicians in the military services, the attainment of essential equipment goals, and improving the logistical standards of ACE units of these countries. When these goals are attained, I feel that a significant increase in the strength of the Southern Region will have been achieved.

In my letter dated 15 September I stated: "I further recommend that the Council consider, as a matter of urgency, further steps to meet the requirements of an all-out emergency, should such a situation appear imminent." Examples of the measures which I feel the Council should consider are the following:

a. Approval, at an early date, of the recommended end-1966 Force Requirements.

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b. A review of the actions which should be taken within the NATO Council in order to minimize delays in implementing the various alerts as may be required by the situation.

c. Urging the nations to conduct a review of those alert measures they have reserved as national prerogatives with the aim of streamlining their procedures and insuring that all measures will be executed promptly when an alert is declared.

d. Urging all nations to take the necessary action to remove any obstacles dictated by national policy which tend to prevent achievement of maximum readiness for Allied Command Europe.

e. Examining the state of readiness of those NATO logistics agencies having a wartime function, such as the various transportation, POL, and supply agencies, with a view to insuring their capability to respond to a wartime condition.

Sincerely,

4 Encls

Country Evaluations  
(SHAPE/188B/61 - 2 copies)

  
LAURIS NORSTAD  
General USAF

His Excellency Dr. D. U. Stikker  
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