

Déclaration de M. de Ranitz au Conseil
du 8 Août, 1961. (1)

S E C R E T

Mr. Chairman,

I have been instructed to make the following statement with regard to the Netherlands defence effort in the light of the Berlin situation.

As you will probably know, the Netherlands Government has for some time been studying long term national defence plans. During this process it has had to take into account several factors, including the fact that previous general assumptions concerning external military aid would no longer be valid. In the meantime, the dangers with which we are all faced on account of the Berlin crisis have prompted my Government to bring its planning to a speedy conclusion and to take the following decisions.

National defence expenditures for the period 1961-1963 will be increased by a total of 420 million guilders, that is a 7.5 percent increase above the level originally foreseen.

Moreover my Government is now studying the possibility of taking concrete steps aimed at the strengthening of the Netherlands military posture, at short notice if necessary.

Apart from the increase in military expenditures which I have just mentioned, my Government has also decided to appropriate larger sums for civil defence, namely an increase of ten per cent in 1961 and a further increase for the year 1962 of thirty per cent above the figures established for 1960.

The Netherlands Government has taken these decisions with a view to making its contribution to a rapid and positive reaction of the Alliance to the United States initiative for strengthening the North Atlantic Defence. I should like to add that the financial decisions of my Government still need the approval of Parliament and that consequently the contents of my statement should be kept secret.

(1) Received from the Netherlands Delegation on a CONFIDENTIAL basis.
9th August, 1961. J. A. Mooy).