

~~COMINT TOP SECRET~~

5th September, 1961

In accordance with the decision of 21st August, the Council, at a restricted meeting held on 4th September, heard the statements of Permanent Representatives concerning the measures taken by NATO governments to meet the plan of action outlined by you in Document SHAPE/167/61 to improve rapidly the military strength of Allied Command Europe in the light of the Berlin crisis.

2. The statements, which were submitted in writing, are attached, i.e. Denmark, France, Germany, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, United Kingdom and United States. Oral statements made at the meeting are summarised below.

3. Belgium : As stated in the Belgian reply to the Interim Review Questionnaire, Belgium is prepared to increase her defence contribution by \$30 million. Difficulties now facing Belgium in the Ruanda Urundi are preventing her from doing more at the present time. However, "if the political attitude of the Alliance would make it necessary, the Belgian government would ask Parliament to agree to a further reinforcement of Belgian Forces." The Belgian Representative stressed that military decisions were to be linked with a political attitude commonly agreed within NATO.

4. Canada : will make its views known after the Session of Parliament of 7th September. The government is making plans to reinforce Canada's overseas forces.

5. Greece : will reply on 10th September.

6. Italy : will furnish a reply on 5th September. Accepts in principle all the measures set out in SHAPE/167/61 and will implement them before the end of 1962. The personnel strength and the level of preparedness of army units will be increased; the equipment and logistic situation will be improved. New credits will be requested.

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7. Norway : has not yet been able to complete its study.

8. Portugal : as already stated, Portugal is not in a position to provide a new contribution.

9. Turkey : has not yet received instructions.

10. In the light of the above, I proposed to the Council that a general assessment of the military effects of the measures announced by member countries in comparison with the action requested to be taken should be made as soon as possible by the appropriate NATO military authorities, on the basis of a first assessment by you which would be accompanied by International Staff's comments. I have also expressed the opinion that the immediate measures taken in response to the Council's decision of 21st August should not interfere with the 1961 Interim Review and the long-term planning studies. My proposal and the latter opinion were endorsed by the Council.

11. From a practical standpoint, I would suggest that in the first place you should furnish your comments by beginning of next week on the response given by countries to SHAPE/167/61. These comments would then be communicated informally to the International Staff, who would add a brief assessment of the non-military implications of these responses.

12. Your comments would be sent at the same time to me and to the Standing Group and the Military Committee. The next step, which should take place a few days after, would be the despatch to the Council of a consolidated document which would contain the assessment made by the appropriate NATO military authorities and the International Staff. This assessment would be considered as a matter of urgency by the Council.

D.U. STIKER

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SHAPE