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SGLP 539/61

22nd September 1961

MEMORANDUM FOR : Secretary General, North Atlantic Treaty Organisation

SUBJECT : SACEUR's analysis of, and recommendations concerning, country responses to "Plan of action - NATO Europe"

References : (a) SHAPE/167/61 of 19th August 1961
(b) SHAPE/188/61 of 15th September 1961

The following message has been addressed to you by the Military Committee:

1. The Military Committee strongly endorses SACEUR's overall analysis in SHAPE/188/61 of the effects of country replies to SHAPE/167/61.
2. The Military Committee is concerned, particularly in the short-term, with the forces available for the Northern Region. Although the figures for forces available for the Central Region appear encouraging, they must only be regarded as a stepping stone to achievement of the full figures asked by end-1962. The Military Committee thus wishes to underline the extreme importance of taking steps to fill the gaps which still exist in forces and logistic support. The Military Committee is not in a position to make an assessment on the Southern Region as SACEUR's evaluation is not yet available.
3. Furthermore, the Military Committee must emphasise that even when the end-1962 forces are available NATO must be prepared to use all means at its disposal, including nuclear weapons as provided in the strategic concept, if such proves necessary in order for SACEUR to fulfill his mission. In addition any short-falls will correspondingly impair the deterrent value of NATO forces and the potential flexibility of NATO response to any events arising out of the present crisis.

Signed R. H. BARRY

Major General

R.H. BARRY

Major General

STANDING GROUP REPRESENTATIVE

Copies to: DSG/ASG Economics & Finance
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