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SOLP 635/61

31 October 1961

MEMORANDUM FOR : Secretary General, North Atlantic Treaty Organisation

SUBJECT : SACLANT Overall Evaluation of NATO Military Build-up

References : (a) PO/61/722
(b) PO/61/730
(c) PO/61/764
(d) PO/61/793

Countries' replies to references (a) and (b) appear as annexes to reference (c) and are commented upon by SACLANT in reference (d). SACLANT has now forwarded the Overall Evaluation of countries' replies attached at Annex. This is a counterpart document to SHAPE 188/61 and has not yet been acted upon by the Military Committee. I anticipate that the Military Committee will give its support and comments in the near future.

R.H.BARRY
Major General
STANDING GROUP REPRESENTATIVE

Attachment : SACLANT Overall Evaluation of NATO Military Build-up

Copies to : DSG/ASG for Economics & Finance
ASG for Production, Logistics and Infrastructure
Executive Secretary

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ANNEX to SOLP 635/61

SACLANT Overall Evaluation of NATO Military Build-up

References : (a) PO/61/722
(b) PO/61/730

1. Replies to references (a) and (b) have now been received from all countries, but in general most replies have been inconclusive.
2. Countries for the most part have shown themselves willing to meet the requirements imposed by MC 55/1 for those units which they intend earmarking to SACLANT in Category "A". The steps taken by some countries to increase the manpower of their naval forces is gratifying.
3. Although the suggested phasing forward of units from Category "B" to Category "A" was only "on request", SACLANT notes the steps taken in certain instances to bring forward and earmark forces now. Certain countries have indicated their willingness and ability to meet SACLANT's request for forces if and when it is made, either in whole or in part and that they themselves might make reappraisals should the present conditions worsen to any marked degree.

Conclusion. Taking into account the measures already taken in response to SACLANT's proposals, and those measures which countries have indicated a willingness to take on request, the overall force posture would be improved to a limited degree. The fact, however, still remains that, even when the build-up forces are included, the SACLANT forces will remain seriously deficient in quality and quantity, when measured against the minimum forces required to carry out the present ACLANT mission and tasks in the conduct of war at sea.

With reference to infrastructure, country responses have indicated favorable reaction to expediting 14 out of 22 projects listed by SACLANT for acceleration. For the remaining projects, countries have indicated problem areas which would preclude completion by the desired dates. However, SACLANT considers that improved completion dates for these latter projects are attainable by application of extra measures within capability of each country. Each country should be advised to present requirements for any additional measures requiring action by the Infrastructure Committee.

SACLANT recommends that the Council impress upon each country the necessity to assure maximum readiness and urge them to take all necessary expediting action within their capability.