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8 June 1965

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WORKING BACKGROUND PAPER PREPARED FOR USE IN THE
OFFICE OF THE STANDING GROUP REPRESENTATIVE

1974

PART II

ALERT STAGES/MEASURES IN SUPPORT OF
BERLIN CONTINGENCY PLANNING

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1. This paper is the second document of three that have been prepared to present in brief form the various aspects of alert stages/measures which support Berlin Contingency Planning.

2. Having regard to the requirements for security of the information contained, and yet to have documented information readily available for various purposes in a form easy to handle, the paper has been divided into three separate COSMIC TOP SECRET documents:

- a. Part I - Berlin Contingency Planning (see SGREP Misc.No. 4431)
- b. Part II - Alert Stages/Measures which Support Berlin Contingency Planning
- c. Part III - Annexes cited which support Parts I and II (see SGREP Misc. No. 4433)

3. Part I and Part II are both documents which can be used either as individual documents or in concert with each other, as needed. For additional amplifying information in conjunction with either Part I or Part II, Part III is required.

4. The information contained in Part I is factual, but should not be used as an official source of reference. The references cited therein are the only official sources for reference.

5. When this document is no longer required, it should be returned to the Registry of the Office of the Standing Group Representative for destruction. Only those persons properly cleared for the information contained herein and with an established "need-to-know" should be permitted to have access to this document.

6. This document contains 5 pages.

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~~COSMIC TOP SECRET~~PART IIALERT STAGES/MEASURES IN SUPPORT OF BERLIN
CONTINGENCY PLANNING1. Importance of Alert Stages/Measures

a. In the case of expanded military operations such as major LIVE OAK, BERCON and MARCON plans, an advanced alert posture will be required to be assumed by NATO so that the necessary preparations can be made to meet any possible Soviet reaction.

b. The concept of LIVE OAK plans is based on the assumption that the West would respond immediately to any interference with Western rights of access to Berlin by the Soviets or GDR. It follows, therefore, that appropriate alerting actions must be initiated before any Western response takes place, since any such test of strength carries with it the danger of escalation - which may be very rapid.

c. In the above situations, a state of readiness must be adopted which will convince the Soviets that the West is determined in its actions. Thus, if the risk of escalation is high, it may be necessary even to delay action until the minimum acceptable state of readiness is achieved.

2. Preferred Sequence of Military Action

a. The Standing Group has based its phasing of alert stages/measures in support of Berlin Contingency Plans on the phasing outline contained in PO/62/593. The Council on 31 October 1962 accepted the "preferred sequence" of military actions as a general framework for the continuing discussions of

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the overall problem of coordinating actions and policies of the Allies in the event of a worsening of the Berlin situation (C-R(62)53).

b. As it is not possible to predict in advance the exact sequence of events nor the precise alert stages/measures to be taken during each phase, the Standing Group (SGM 593-62 Revised)¹ has suggested a further breakdown of the "preferred sequence" which allows maximum flexibility in reacting to changing circumstances. A general breakdown is as follows (a specific diagram of this breakdown is attached at Annex C, Part III):

PHASE IA - Increased Tension

(1) Indication of pending Soviet/GDR action to interfere with Allied access

(2) Preparation made for possible LIVE OAK probes.

SACEUR Action: Ranges from warnings to MSCs to declaration of Military Vigilance.

PHASE IB - Interference with Rights

(1) Definite interference occurs.

(2) Appropriate Tripartite Action taken as agreed by Four Powers.

(3) Probes could be done without waiting to achieve any formal state of readiness.

(4) When decision is made to launch probe:

SACEUR Action: Request authority to declare Simple Alert or request implementation of selected Simple Alert measures in part or whole of ACE area.

SACLANT/CINCHAN Action: May declare state of Military Vigilance and/or request implementation of selected Simple Alert measures.

PHASE II - Intense Non-Combatant and Diplomatic Activity

(1) Intention to block access is confirmed.

(2) Allies' efforts, short of offensive combat, will be increased political and military pressure on Soviets.

(3) Intense political activity and growing military build-up for launching major LIVE OAK, BERCON and/or MARCON operation.

MNCs' Action: Request authority to declare Simple Alert supplemented by requests to implement selected Reinforced Alert measures.

¹ Noted by Council on 28 Nov 62 (C-R(62)56)

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~~COSMIC TOP SECRET~~PHASE III - Military Operations

- (1) Access is not restored by Phase II actions.
- (2) Time to draw upon catalogue of LIVE OAK, BERCON and MARCON plans.

MNCs' Action: Prior to execution of BERCON/MARCON plans, NATO should be on Reinforced Alert supplemented by appropriately selected General Alert measures.

of Part III

c. Attached at Annex D/are the immediate planning requirements of national authorities, NAC and MNCs in order to ensure the timely implementation of alert stages/measures in support of Berlin Contingency Plans.

31. Specific State of Alert Measures for BERCON Plans

Prior to execution of any of the BERCON plans, a full state of Reinforced Alert in ACE is necessary and many measures presently scheduled as post M-Day would have to be completed.

32. Specific State of Alert Measures for MARCON Plans

a. Prior to the initiation of the Maritime Contingency Plan Measures, the following SACLANT Alert Measures should be implemented as preparatory steps:

(1) MARCON I and II

- (a) All measures of state of Military Vigilance.
- (b) All measures of Simple Alert with exception of SOG (Preparation for laying of defensive naval minefields).
- (c) The following Reinforced Alert measures:

RAA	RIA	ROM	RWA
RCA	ROC	ROW	

(2) MARCON III

- (a) All measures in MARCON I and II above.
- (b) RSA and RSC as additional Reinforced Alert measures.

(3) MARCON IV, V and VI

- (a) All measures of MARCON III.
- (b) Simple Alert measure SOG.
- (c) RCB, RCC and ROE as additional Reinforced Alert measures.

b. In addition to the above alert measures, SACLANT would employ assigned submarines to increase the level of effort for surveillance and reconnaissance of the northeastern approaches to the Atlantic during the implementation of any of the MARCON plans.

33. Specific State of Alert Measures for LIVE OAK Plans

a. During small ground or rail probes, a state of readiness ranging from Military Vigilance to Simple Alert should have been initiated within ACE.

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b. Prior to the execution of major LIVE OAK actions (BCT or JUNE BALL), the provisions of a Simple Alert plus selected measures of Reinforced Alert should have been initiated in ACE. The 16 selected Reinforced Alert measures are:

RAH	RAV	RIF	RLI	RIU	ROB	ROH	ROL
RAP	RCP	RIK	RCK	RMD	ROD	ROK	RWL

c. During air operation phases of LIVE OAK plans, the state of readiness will vary from no alert to a state of Military Vigilance and State Orange. Should attacks against ground targets be authorized, then a state of Simple Alert with the 16 Reinforced Alert measures should be initiated within ACE.

FUTURE PROBLEMS AND PROBABLE ACTIONS

34. During September 1964, SHAPE advised the Standing Group that SHAPE 70A/62 was being revised, with changes to alert measure designations as part of the revision. Upon completion, the proposed revision will be forwarded for Standing Group approval and then subsequent NATO Council approval.

35. During the forthcoming 12th PCC meeting, a military "making-up of mind" discussion as to what action to take on alert measures and MC 67/1 will take place. Thereafter, an alert measure meeting will be held (June 1965) in which the military ideas on this subject will be crystallized. As this process progresses, it will be necessary to keep in mind all phases of Berlin Contingency Planning and the requirements of alert stages/measures for this planning. Additionally, the SHAPE revision of SHAPE 70A/62 should be in consonance with any future actions taken toward MC 67/1 on alerts in general before it is presented for NAC approval.

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