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SECRETBERLIN - MILITARY MEASURES

Text of the Statement made by the United Kingdom Representative in the North Atlantic Council on August 8, 1961.

In deciding what contribution they could make to a NATO military build-up, the British Government have naturally been bound to keep in mind two important considerations - first, their commitments in the Middle East, the Far East and elsewhere, and secondly, the United Kingdom balance of payments position. I think the Council will recognise that the proposed United Kingdom contribution, which I am about to describe, represents a real effort and especially so if due account is taken of these two factors. In particular, I think the Council will recognise the force of Sir Paul Mason's assurance, when he spoke on the balance of payments position on July 24, that the British Government were determined that that position should do nothing to weaken NATO's defences.

2. The British Government have decided that they would be prepared to bring their forces in Germany up to a higher state of operational readiness and strength by taking the following measures:-

- (a) by sending to Germany one SAGW regiment followed by two LAA regiments;
- (b) by retaining in Germany for the time being the three fighter squadrons which, as the NATO Council has been informed, were to have been withdrawn at the end of this year;
- (c) by supplementing the fighter strength of these squadrons by sending additional Javelin fighter aircraft to Germany;

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- (d) by earmarking in the United Kingdom a squadron of Canberra reconnaissance aircraft in support of SACEUR if required;
 - (e) by forming as part of the strategic reserve a division in the United Kingdom, including armour, which can be held available as reinforcement for our forces in Germany.
3. Our nuclear strategic bombers, which constitute a formidable backing to the shield forces of the Alliance, will be held at an appropriate state of readiness.
4. In the event of an emergency the necessary reservists could be quickly called up and sent to Germany. Plans exist for this purpose, including mobilization plans, should the situation require it. Her Majesty's Government stand ready to use their constitutional powers to call up a quarter of a million of trained men and to embody the territorial army. As Her Majesty's Government have already indicated, Parliament would be recalled if necessary.
5. No formal announcement will be made of these plans until the necessary executive action has been taken in the United Kingdom. Each step will then be announced at the appropriate time.
6. May I emphasise this last point? There is to be no announcement of the programme as a whole. The full programme will only become known over a period as each successive step is taken. My authorities attach the highest importance to this, from the point of view of the impact of these measures on both sides of the Iron Curtain. It follows that any premature disclosure of the information which I

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have given to the Council would be acutely embarrassing and I must ask that it be treated, at this stage, as highly confidential.

United Kingdom Delegation to NATO,

PARIS.

August 9, 1961

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Standing Group Representative (3)

Secretary-General's Office (12)

SECRET

8 août 1961.
TOP SECRET.

U.K. Military Measures (*)

- (1) Send to Germany 1 SACW Regiment followed by 2 LAA Regiments.
- (2) Retain for time being 3 Fighter Squadrons in Germany.
- (3) Send additional Javelin fighters to Germany.
- (4) Harmark a squadron of Canberra reconnaissance aircraft for SACEUR in U.K.
- (5) Form as part of strategic reserve in U.K. a division including armour for reinforcement of BAOR.
- (6) Hold nuclear strategic bombers at appropriate state of readiness.

Plans exist for call-up and sending to Germany of necessary reservists.

Ready to use powers to call-up approximately 250,000 men and embody Territorial Army.

Programme to be executed and announced stage by stage.

- (*) Communiqué par la Délégation Britannique à la suite de la Réunion du Conseil le 8 août.

9 June 1961

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UK Publishing Reserves. (*)

- (1) Send to Germany 1 Signal Regiment followed by 2 LAA Regiment
- (2) Retain for time being 3 Fighter Squadrons in Germany
- (3) Send additional Forward fighters to Germany
- (4) Equip a squadron of Canberra reconnaissance aircraft for SACEUR. in UK.
- (5) Form as part of strategic reserve in UK. a division including armour for reinforcement of NATO.
- (6) Hold nuclear strategic bombers at appropriate state of readiness.

Plans exist for call-up + sending to Germany of necessary reinforcements
 Ready to use powers to call-up up to 200,000 men and
 embody Territorial Army

Programme R&E executed at command staff by staff.

(*) Communiqué par la Délég. Britannique
 à la suite de la Réunion du Comité
 C. S. R. M.

No. 1

8 août 1961.
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