

NATO SECRET
17th August, 1961.

To : M. Sagne.
From : D. Thompson.

General Norstad's letter to the Secretary General
of August 10th: Signal Requirements

The paragraph on page 2 on increased signal requirements does deal with military budget matters, and Mme. Gevaerts has given me very full details.

Cryptographic Machines.

There are already some 1,500 of these machines in operation. It has recently been discovered that they are not secure. A modification is being considered which would render these machines sufficiently secure for Nato Confidential messages, but not Secret or Cosmic. The Military Budget Committee asked the Standing Group for advice on this in March of this year, and are hoping to have something to consider at their first meeting at the beginning of September. The utility of this expenditure is therefore by no means unquestionable; and it is clear that it is not financial difficulties which are impeding the solution of the problem. I also understand that the French Delegation are by no means alone in their opposition.

Transportable High Frequency Radio Stations.

The Military Budget Committee has not approved the purchase of the additional 12 sets, because they have been informed by ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~Sme~~ ^{Swedish} Government that the frequency bands for these sets will not be available in time of alert or war (though they are in time of peace). The problem is thus not in the first instance financial, once again; if frequency bands were available, it is very likely that funds would be forthcoming. This problem has not been considered as a matter of urgency by the Military Budget Committee since early 1959.

Mme. Gevaerts has provided me with the necessary references and quotations from documents, which I can provide as necessary.

Conclusion.

I suggest, therefore, that a comment along the following lines might be made on this problem, in the brief to the Secretary

General :-

"Signals.

The Military Budget Committee has been considering the supply of the additional cryptographic machines and transportable high frequency radio stations for some time. There are technical problems preventing fulfilment of requirements in both cases, which the Standing Group has under consideration. In neither case does it seem that progress is impeded primarily by lack of funds."

Sumner