

M. Fegh

14 SEPT 1961

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NORWEGIAN DELEGATION
to NATO

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Enclosure

Paris, 13th September, 1961

Dear Mr. Casardi,

I enclose herewith the Norwegian comments to document SHAPE 167/61 "Plan of Action: NATO Europe".

I am sending a copy of this letter with the enclosure to each Permanent Representative and to the Standing Group Representative.

Yours sincerely,



(E. Ulstein)
Acting Permanent
Representative

Mr. A. Casardi,
Deputy Secretary General,
OTAN/NATO.

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Comments by Norway on the Memorandum of SACEUR of
21st August, 1961, concerning "Plan of Action: NATO Europe".

The Army.

By the increase of personnel which has taken place during recent months, and by certain organizational measures, the manning level of M-Day army units has been raised to 74 percent of war authorized strength. The manning level of first echelon units is 23 percent as an average for the whole country, while in North Norway the manning level of these forces is 14 percent.

As an additional measure the schedule for refresher training of army units will be adjusted so that these units will be maintained on a rotation basis at least up to the end of 1961. Furthermore, additional signals personnel is called up. The average manning level of first echelon units will thus be increased to 25 percent and to 17 percent for units in North Norway. It is not possible in 1961 to increase the manning level beyond what is stated above unless partial mobilization measures are taken which would require parliamentary approval unless an acute state of emergency arises.

Shortage of officers and NCO's makes it difficult to train efficiently large additional intakes of personnel. This problem is under active consideration with a view to obtain improvements.

The Navy.

The phasing forward to category "A" of three destroyers would require the calling up of reservists, prolonging conscriptive service or drawing on personnel from military schools, staffs and other non-operative units. Such measures are not considered to be

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appropriate for the time being. The number of FFB's in category "A" will be increased from 12 to 14 during 1962.

The Air Force.

A rise in combat ready aircrew rate from 76 percent to 100 percent can only be effected by the transfer of aircrews from military schools, staffs, and other non-combat units and by calling up pilots from civilian airlines. Such measures are not planned for the time being.

Logistics.

20 million Norwegian Kroner has been re-allocated from the 1961 defence budget for the purpose of increasing the preparedness of the Norwegian defences. The major part of these measures will be completed by the end of 1961. The appropriations, except a minor part which is allocated for meeting expenses in connection with the calling up of reservists, will be used for the procurement of equipment and supplies.

For the army ammunition, spare parts, pioneer equipment, and provisions will be procured in order to establish a more balanced logistical support, especially in North Norway. Furthermore, it is planned to procure communication equipment to eliminate deficiencies in army reserve units.

Due to lack of equipment it will not be possible to activate one medium tank squadron and one anti-tank company in Brigade North before 1963 when the equipment will be available.

Funds allocated for the Navy will be used to improve the maintenance of category "A" ships. Spare engines for FFB's will be procured. The filling up of

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the Navy/POB storages will be carried out as soon as storages are completed.

For the Air Force measures will be taken at airfields to improve protection and dispersal capabilities. Further steps include accelerated procurement of air- and ground equipment. Contacts have been established with, amongst others, Denmark and Germany, in order to procure certain critical spare parts which it has proved difficult to obtain at short notice through NIBSA. There is reason to believe that this step will alleviate the shortages to some degree. However, the U/E deficiencies in the Air Force and the insufficient combat ready rate of aircraft can only be corrected by allocation of reserve aircraft through MAP and by accelerated deliveries of spare parts through NIBSA.

Funds have also been allocated with a view to increase the efficiency and the security of the radio link system in North Norway.

The above mentioned measures which will be completed in 1961, will result in an increase of actual defence expenditures. The Norwegian Government will, in view of the situation and practical possibilities and limitations, consider additional measures which can produce results in 1962 in order to remedy the weaknesses pointed out in SHAPE Document 167/61.

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