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COSMIC TOP SECRET
PRIORITY

SACLANT 062215Z Oct 61

From: SACLANT
To: SACLANTREPEUR

PERSONAL FROM ADMIRAL DENNISON FOR DR. STIKKER.

Subj: NATO Planning for Berlin Emergency

1. I have followed with much interest recent NAC discussions regarding proposed directive to Major NATO Commanders. Although our views are fundamentally the same I would like to take the liberty of offering my views on 2 points. You will recall that in my discussions with you and presentations to the NAC in July in Paris I touched upon the fact that Naval Commanders, in considering the employment of nuclear weapons at sea, are not faced with the same degree of moral, political or psychological repercussions as are commanders who must consider consequences of employment of nuclear weapons to secure or neutralize ground objectives. This factor affords Naval Commanders greater flexibility and more freedom in selecting appropriate means to carry out a specific task or achieve an assigned objective. Further, such action at sea will result in less danger of immediate all-out escalation. Therefore I would hope that the NAC decision regarding the selection or use of nuclear weapons would be more specific in the use of low yield tactical weapons at sea. As to my second point directives to NATO Military Commanders should be broad enough to assure local commander flexibility in selecting the appropriate course of action to accomplish his task. Inasmuch as all contingencies cannot be foreseen it may become necessary for the local commander to increase degree of force. Once the NAC has approved the whole catalogue of plans I would hope no further political approval was to be required for implementation of any or all of the parts of the plan.

I
II
III

Warmest regards,

seems impossible

Denny

his work } in place
could be
taken care
of

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