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To: Secretary General

cc. DSG-ASG for Economics and Finance
Mr. Bendall
Directeur du Cabinet
Standing Group Representative

From: Executive Secretary

5.5.62

APPRAISAL OF BERLIN CONTINGENCY PLANS

Mr. Bendall was good enough to send me a copy of his draft PO under cover of which you might submit to the Council the Standing Group Appraisal of Berlin Contingency Plans.

2. I would like to comment on paragraph 5 (d) in which the possible activation of "some of the wartime organisations for shipping should be instituted". If this refers to the Defence Shipping Executive Boards, the position is that the Planning Board for Ocean Shipping has just completed a review of the arrangements for activating the shipping organisations required in war. They are clear and precise. The necessary personnel from nations to man these agencies has been already designated; headquarters for these agencies already exist with adequate communications: one for the Western branch, in the United States, and one for the Eastern branch, in the United Kingdom.

3. So far so good. However, there is one major difficulty. In both the cases of the United States and the United Kingdom, the accommodation and communications provided are in the same headquarters as those which will be used by their respective governments in time of war. In other words, they are in the U.K. and U.S. relocation sites. This means that neither government would allow the shipping agency concerned to man their headquarters and to operate it unless and until a move had been made to its wartime headquarters by the national government agency who would be sharing these sites. If either "sporadic submarine warfare" or "all-out submarine attack" was in fact taking place, it is certainly fair to say that those governments should by then have moved to their wartime

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headquarters. Furthermore, at least the Simple, if not the Reinforced, Alert would presumably have been declared.

4. To make any international shipping organisations work effectively requires of course that the national shipping agencies are on a wartime basis and that the national Ships Destination Rooms are also manned and operating.

5. In the light of what I have said above, I think that Mr. Bendall's draft adequately covers the shipping aspect of Berlin Contingency Planning, and PBOS might well be invited to look at their present arrangements in relationship to BERSON Plans as they presently exist.

5th September, 1962

W. King