

ALT (PSF-SUBJ) 104



DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

December 18, 1950

~~TOP SECRET~~

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

Subject: Suggestions of the Departments of State and Defense
for Procedure in Connection with Brussels Conference

The Departments of State and Defense suggest for your approval the following procedure in connection with the establishment of the European Defense Force and the designation of General of the Army Dwight D. Eisenhower as the Supreme Allied Commander, Europe:

(1) The North Atlantic Council will on Monday approve action by the North Atlantic Defense Committee regarding the contribution of Germany to the defense of Western Europe and the creation of an integrated European Defense Force, the establishment of a Supreme Headquarters in Europe, and the reorganization of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization military structure.

(2) As part of the Council action establishing the Integrated Defense Force and the Supreme Headquarters, it is expected that a resolution will be adopted requesting the President of the United States to designate a U. S. Officer to take the position of Supreme Allied Commander, Europe. At the same time the resolution will express the hope that you will favorably consider General Eisenhower for the position.

Upon taking this action it is Secretary Acheson's intention to request a recess, during which time he will communicate with you in order to secure your designation of General Eisenhower for the stated post. A copy of Secretary Acheson's proposed telegram to you transmitting this request is attached (Attachment A). It is expected that this message will be received Monday afternoon. Following receipt of Secretary Acheson's message you may wish to call General Eisenhower to inform him of your intention to designate him. A draft reply which could be sent Monday night for use at the Tuesday morning session at the Council is attached (Attachment B).

(3) Following

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 12958 SEC. 1.2
STATE GUIDELINE 6-12-79
By NARS, Date 11-22-79

~~TOP SECRET~~

~~TOP SECRET~~

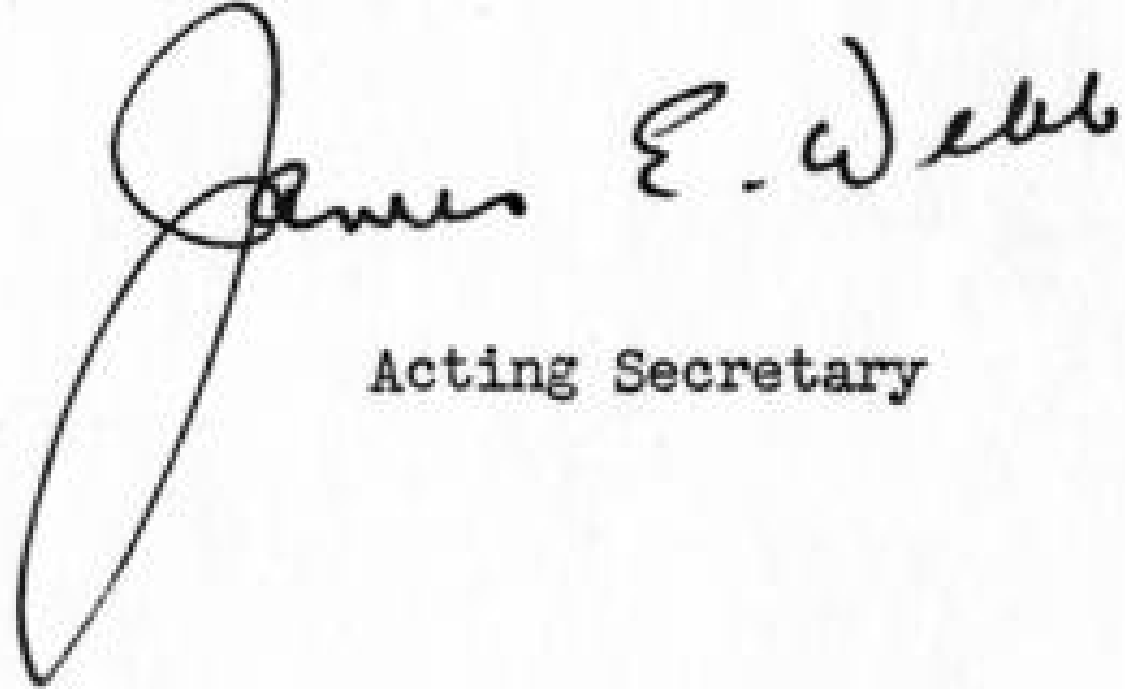
- 2 -

(3) Following this consultation, Secretary Acheson would announce to the Council that you have designated General Eisenhower as the Supreme Allied Commander, Europe.

It is recommended that you release these two telegrams to the press for publication Tuesday morning, December 19.

The Departments of State and Defense request your approval for release by the White House of the attached letter from you to General Eisenhower. This letter designated General Eisenhower as the Supreme Allied Commander, Europe. It further assigns him operational command over United States armed forces in Europe (Attachment C).

The letter to General Eisenhower would be released to the press on Wednesday morning, December 20, 1950.


Acting Secretary

Enclosures:

- A-Telegram from Secretary to President
- B-Telegram from President to Secretary
- C-Proposed Letter from President to General Eisenhower

~~TOP SECRET~~

~~TOP SECRET~~

TELEGRAM FROM THE PRESIDENT TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE,
CODE WORD: UNITY

Pursuant to the request of the North Atlantic Council that I designate a U.S. Officer to take the position of Supreme Allied Commander, Europe, I have designated General of the Army Dwight D. Eisenhower. In taking this action I wish to express both my gratification and agreement with the view of the North Atlantic Council that General Eisenhower's experience and talents make him uniquely qualified to assume the important responsibilities of this position.

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 12065
STATE CUIBZME 6-12-79
By NLT-HL NARS, Date 11-22-79

~~TOP SECRET~~

Attachment A

~~TOP SECRET~~

TELEGRAM FROM SECRETARY OF STATE TO PRESIDENT,
CODE WORD: COURAGE

The North Atlantic Council today completed arrangements for the establishment of an integrated European defense force. This plan provides that the Supreme Allied Commander, Europe be a U.S. Officer. The Council has asked me to transmit to you its request that you designate a U.S. Officer to take this position. At the time this action was taken the members of the Council expressed the high regard in which their Governments hold General of the Army Dwight D. Eisenhower and expressed their hope that you will find it possible to give favorable consideration to his unique qualifications for the position of Supreme Allied Commander, Europe.

~~TOP SECRET~~

Proposed Letter from The President to General Eisenhower

General of the Army Dwight D. Eisenhower
United States Army

The North Atlantic Treaty Nations have agreed on the defense organization for Europe and at their request I have designated you as Supreme Allied Commander, Europe. I view their request as an earnest that their support of your efforts will be complete and unequivocal.

I need hardly say that you are undertaking a tremendous responsibility for which history records no comparable precedent. In simple words, you are charged with the defense of the cradle of western civilization.

I understand that the Standing Group of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization will shortly issue a directive to you concerning your responsibility and authority as the Supreme Allied Commander, Europe.

You are hereby assigned operational command, to the extent necessary for the accomplishment of your mission, of the U.S. Army Forces, Europe; U.S. Air Forces, Europe; and the U.S. Naval Forces, Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean.

Subject to overriding requirements of the Supreme Allied Commander, Europe, the missions, routine employment, training and administration of those forces will continue to be handled through command channels heretofore existing.

You are authorized officers and enlisted personnel of the U.S. Armed Forces, as well as civilian employees of the Departments of the Army, Navy and Air Force, for your Staff in such numbers and grades as you consider necessary.

I am sending a copy of this letter to the Secretary of Defense for his guidance and necessary action by the Department of Defense.

As President and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the United States, I feel certain that our entire country is wholeheartedly behind you and will support you to the maximum. Needless to say, you carry with you the prayers of all freedom-loving peoples and my warmest personal good wishes.

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 12065
STATE GUIDELINE # 6-12-79
By ALT:NC NARS, Date 11-22-79

~~RESTRICTED~~