

~~TOP SECRET~~DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
WASHINGTON

December 19, 1950

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## MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

Subject: Action at Brussels on Supreme Commander  
and Integrated Force.

There are attached two telegrams from the Secretary of State to you giving the full text of the two resolutions adopted yesterday by the North Atlantic Treaty Council. They provide for the establishment of an integrated force in Europe and request you to appoint General of the Army Dwight D. Eisenhower as its Supreme Commander.

There is also attached a telegram from the Secretary of State to you summarizing the discussion on these resolutions at the Council meeting.

These documents describe the action in Brussels on the basis of which your action in designating General Eisenhower was taken.

*James E. Webb*  
Acting Secretary

## Enclosures:

1. Telegram No. 985 from Brussels.
2. Telegram No. 986 from Brussels.
3. Telegram No. 988 from Brussels.

DECLASSIFIED

E.O. 12065 Sec. III  
STATE GUIDELINE 4292-67  
By AMC/NL NARS, Date 4-29-79

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TELEGRAPH BRANCH  
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~Control: 8538  
Rec'd: December 18, 1950  
7:51 p.m.

FROM: Brussels

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 985, December 18, 10 p.m.

VERBATIM TEXT.

FOR PRESIDENT FROM ACHESON.

Following adoption of resolution reported EMBTEL 983 December 18, 9 p.m. NA Council this afternoon unanimously adopted following resolution proposed by Canadian representative and requested that I convey message to you.

"The Council, having agreed with the recommendation of the Defense Committee that a Supreme Allied Commander, Europe, should be appointed as soon as possible as an essential action in proceeding with the prompt establishment of an effective NATO defense force in Europe;

"Recognizing that the ultimate success of such a force lies in its sound initiation and that, for this reason, the selection of the first supreme commander is a question of the utmost importance;

"Reposing the greatest faith in General of the Army Dwight D. Eisenhower as a commander of incomparable prestige, proven ability, and the highest order of leadership;

"Unanimously recommends to the President of the United States that he designate General of the Army Dwight D. Eisenhower as the first Supreme Allied Commander, Europe."

MURPHY

EHL:MMG

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E.O. 12965

STATE GUIDELINE 6-12-79

By ~~MLT-NC~~ NARS, Date 11-20-79 ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~REPRODUCTION OF THIS  
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TELEGRAPH BRANCH

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~Control: 8608  
Rec'd: December 18, 1950  
9:55 p.m.

FROM: Brussels

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 986, December 18, 10 p.m.

DECLASSIFIED  
E.O. 12065  
STATE GUIDELINE 6-12-79  
By ~~ACT-46~~ NARS, Date 11-20-79

FOR THE PRESIDENT FROM ACHESON.

VERBATIM TEXT.

North Atlantic Council adopted following resolution at meeting this afternoon.

"Convinced that recent developments in the international situation have increased the urgency of establishing the integrated force for the defense of Western Europe, including Western Germany, envisaged by the Council in its resolution of 26 September 1950 (C5-D/11 final);

"Having considered the report of the Defense Committee on this matter;

"Approves:

"The Defense Committee's report, including the measures proposed therein to establish the integrated force and the terms of reference for the supreme commander attached thereto. In this connection the members of the North Atlantic Council, speaking on behalf of their governments, indicate that it is the intention of their governments to proceed along the lines outlined in this paper in order to achieve its purposes;

"Authorizes:

"The implementation of the recommendations therein for the necessary reorganization of the NATO military structure to provide for the integrated force and its supreme commander;

"Agrees:

"That the integrated force is to be constituted, and the

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supreme

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12/19/50, 8 a.m.  
CORRECTED PAGE 2  
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-2- #986, December 18, 10 p.m., from Brussels.

supreme commander appointed, at the earliest possible date;

"Requests:

"(A) The Government of the United States to designate an officer of its armed forces to fill the position of supreme commander of the integrated force.

"(B) The parties to the North Atlantic Treaty to take immediately all practicable steps to have ready, as set forth in the medium term defense plan, and in part 4 of the report of the Defense Committee, their initial contribution to the force on the request of the supreme commander and concurrently consider ways and means of rapidly effecting completion of the requisite additional national contributions to the strength of the force."

MURPHY

TT:RFB

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TELEGRAPH BRANCH

~~TOP SECRET~~Control: 8698  
Rec'd: December 19, 1950  
6:04 a.m.

FROM: Brussels

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 988, December 19, 5 a.m.

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E.O. 12065 SEC. III  
STATE GUIDELINE 6-12-79  
By NLT-K NARS, Date 11-26-79

FOR PRESIDENT AND WEBB FROM ACHESON.

North Atlantic Council with Defense Ministers present opened first meeting sixth session December 18 with Van Zeeland in chair and approved agenda covering (1) German contribution to defense of West, (2) integrated European defense force, (3) survey of world situation, (4) report by Deputies, (5) other business, and (6) communique.

In taking up first agenda item Van Zeeland read letter from Pace as chairman Defense Commission transmitting joint report Military Commission and Deputies re German contribution (C6-D/1 or DC 29/1). Belgian Defense Minister raised point that occupying powers in seeking reach agreement with Germany might go beyond framework NAT document and they should therefore not only keep Council informed but should seek Council approval action taken. Bevin agreeable keeping NATO informed but thought it useful secure in advance from other Ministers their views on appropriate German settlement. No comments offered re this request. Schuman said he agreed entirely Belgian proposal. Acheson said if proposal meant occupying powers not to go outside NATO approved framework, he entirely agreeable, but if comment implied limits on range of action occupation powers he was opposed. Belgian Defense Minister said he merely sought clear interpretation of text and if occupation powers did not go beyond approved provisions he was satisfied. This interpretation accepted and paper un-animously approved.

Van Zeeland then read Pace letter recommending adoption Defense Commission report on integrated forces (DC 24/3 and C6-D/2). Schuman inquired as to authority by which other senior staff officers would be named to supreme headquarters. Pace replied these officers would be appointed by supreme commander although he would have to consult member governments in process.

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-2- #988, December 19, 5 a.m. from Brussels.

in process. Bevin inquired as to whether Defense Commission had date in mind in urging prompt action on integrated forces and appointment supreme commander. Acheson replied that text of document stated supreme headquarters should be established urgently and commander appointed forthwith.

Discussion followed on organizational questions. Portuguese representative raised question whether power given to Deputies transmit policy guidance to SG for supreme command gave new authority to Deputies. Norwegian representative said New York agreements clear as to limits of authority and must be accepted as basic guide. Proposal to use Deputies was essential, but it should be clear political views were those of governments and Deputies were merely channel of communication. Dutch and Danes agreed this comment. Belgium also proposed chairman of Military Representatives Commission be member SG. After some discussion it was agreed this question should be deferred without prejudice to immediate action under present draft and that all organizational questions would be studied by Deputies on basis experience. Belgian Defense Minister accepted this but seconded by Sforza urged that concept of single chairman SG and Military Representatives Commission definitely be considered provisional. This agreed.

Van Zeeland then introduced resolution approving integrated force and supreme commander. Schuman and Bevin raised questions as to how appointment supreme commander should be approved by NATO. Acheson said resolution asks US fill position which we would hope to do by Tuesday at which time Council could consider further steps it might wish take. In this connection US would welcome views other government. Moch said if US this far along it meant NATO on verge taking very important step. He would like urge on US designation of Eisenhower which would be welcomed with joy and enthusiasm by free world. Canada, UK, Italy, Norway, Portugal and Denmark seconded this nomination with expressions highest esteem.

Schuman reverted to question of method by which other governments could register approval and associate themselves in investiture supreme commander. Lange suggested each Defense Minister might address letter supreme commander expressing willingness place national troops under his command, which was accepted subject to Moch proposal that letter should be addressed Council chairman. Resolution then adopted by Council (EMBTTEL 986), following which Ministers unanimously adopted second resolution proposed by Canadians endorsing name of Eisenhower to US President (EMBTTEL 985).

After

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-3- #988, December 19, 5 a.m. from Brussels.

After some discussion means of drafting communique and necessity for maintaining secrecy on day's action until final communique issued, Council asked Deputies meet to draft (1) brief noncommittal interim communique and (2) final communique for issuance Tuesday.

Next meeting scheduled 10 a.m. December 19.

SMD:MW

MURPHY

NOTE: Passed Department of Defense 12/19/50, 9:30 a.m. MRM.

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