

~~SECURITY INFORMATION~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
WASHINGTON

*Filed by  
Mr Hopkins  
2-1-52.*

28 JAN 1952

*G.F.  
North Atlantic Treaty  
Organization*

*did not come to file.*

Dear Mr. President:

I refer to General Marshall's letter to you of 31 January 1951, in which your agreement to the designation of Admiral William M. Fechteler, United States Navy, as the Supreme Allied Commander Atlantic, was requested, and to your subsequent approval thereof on 2 February 1951. You are aware of the international factors which, unfortunately, prevented Admiral Fechteler's appointment.

The Joint Chiefs of Staff have recommended that Admiral Lynde D. McCormick, United States Navy, be designated Supreme Allied Commander Atlantic. Secretary Acheson and I concur in Admiral McCormick's designation and request your agreement. This request to designate Admiral McCormick in lieu of Admiral Fechteler arises by virtue of their changes of duty assignments with which you are familiar.

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization is now in agreement as to the appointment of the SACLANT and has requested the United States to designate an officer to fill the position. If you approve of this appointment, the necessary affirmation by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization will be secured in the general manner previously agreed. In making the appointment it is recommended that a letter of designation similar to that intended for Admiral Fechteler be addressed to Admiral McCormick.

Respectfully yours,

**ROBERT A. LOVETT**



The President  
The White House

DECLASSIFIED  
E.O. 12065, Sec. 3-402  
State Dept. Guidelines, March 6, 1982  
By HL NLT, Date 6-20-84

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

C206

**C. F.**

FILED BY  
MR. HOPKINS  
FEB 1 1952

*Fall*  
*Confidential*  
*E.B.*

2 February 1951

MEMORANDUM FOR:

The Secretary of Defense *deft.*

Subject: Admiral William M. Fechteler, USN - designation  
as one of the Supreme Allied Commanders in the  
North Atlantic Treaty Organization

By direction of the President, I am transmitting herewith for forwarding to Admiral William M. Fechteler, USN, a letter of designation as Supreme Allied Commander, Atlantic. A copy of this letter is attached for your file.

You will note that the date on this letter and on the copy is incomplete. Will you please fill in the appropriate date when the necessary arrangements for this designation have been completed? Will you then please notify me, so that the White House records may be completed accordingly?

ROBERT L. DENNISON  
Rear Admiral, U.S. Navy  
Naval Aide to the President



*x Navy deft.*

Copy to:  
Mr. W. J. Hopkins ✓

*It is my understanding that the letter of designation for Admiral Fechteler was returned by Admiral Dennison*  
*Zof. N*

6794

NLT(CF)95

February 2, 1951

TOP SECRET

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF STATE: *depat*

By direction of the President I am sending you herewith a copy of the letter he has addressed to Admiral William M. Fechteler regarding his designation as one of the Supreme Allied Commanders in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. The letter has been transmitted to the Secretary of Defense for delivery at the appropriate time.



MATTHEW J. CONNELLY  
Secretary to the President

February 2, 1951

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE:

By direction of the President I am sending you herewith a copy of a letter he has today addressed to Admiral William M. Fechteler regarding his designation as one of the Supreme Allied Commanders in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

MATTHEW J. CONNELLY  
Secretary to the President



*Sent to Admiral Fechteler  
for delivery  
2/2/51*

February , 1951

My dear Admiral Fechteler:

The North Atlantic Treaty Nations have agreed that a Supreme Allied Commander, Atlantic, should now be appointed and have requested that I designate a United States officer. I have designated you for this new international command which embraces a large area under the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

I am informed that the Standing Group of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization will issue a directive to you concerning your responsibilities and authority as the Supreme Allied Commander, Atlantic.

You are hereby assigned operational command, of the United States Armed Forces assigned to the U.S. Atlantic Command, to the extent necessary for the accomplishment of your mission.

You are hereby authorized to use officers and enlisted personnel of the U. S. Armed Forces and civilian employees of the U. S. Government, on your staff as you consider appropriate in numbers and grades as necessary.

I am sending copies of this letter to the Secretary of State and to the Secretary of Defense for their guidance.

In designating you as one of the Supreme Allied Commanders in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, I am sure you have the confidence of our own country and the confidence of the other member nations of the NAT Organization. I consider it an honor to the United States that these member nations have requested me to designate a United States officer for this position. As President of the United States and Commander-in-Chief of this country's Armed Forces, I have suggested your name for appointment to this high office with pleasure, and I wish you every success as the first Supreme Allied Commander, Atlantic.

Sincerely yours,

(Sgd) HARRY S. TRUMAN

Admiral William M. Fechteler  
United States Navy  
Washington, D. C.



*The President's letter of 1/29/52, designating Admiral Lynde H. McCormick as Supreme Commander, Atlantic, is filed 66 North Atlantic Treaty Organization & Admiral Denman SACLANP, signed for delivery*