

Draft Report by the French, United Kingdom and U.S. Governments to the North Atlantic Council

1. Following the Berlin crisis of 1958, the Governments of France, the U.K. and the U.S. gave instructions for the development of tripartite military plans to enable them to carry out their special responsibilities concerning Berlin in all contingencies. In light of recent developments in Berlin, these plans have been reviewed and amplified and additional preparatory measures have been directed.

2. Since the implementation of any military plans to protect Western rights in Berlin could vitally affect NATO forces and defense plans, France, the U.K. and the U.S. wish to inform the NAC as to the scope, nature, and purpose of existing Berlin contingency plans.

3. Under the instructions of the Governments of France, the U.K. and the U.S., General Norstad, in his capacity as USCINCEUR, has developed over the past two years a series of limited military plans. This planning, known as LIVE OAK, was primarily directed at readying immediate responses to possible Soviet bloc interference with Western rights of access to Berlin in the air or on the ground. It covers three main areas of military activity:

- (a) The development of small-scale military probes to determine Soviet "GDR" intentions with respect to the denial of ground or air access by force.
- (b) The use of airlifts as appropriate to meet essential requirements in the event of civil air access is interfered with or ground access denied.
- (c) The readying of limited ground forces and tactical air forces to be employed if necessary to demonstrate tripartite determination to use force.

4. LIVE OAK plans to probe Soviet intentions provide, on the ground, for the use of small tripartite convoys of various configurations, designed to test the access route and overcome physical obstacles. These would not fire unless fired upon and in the latter case only to extricate themselves. In the air, LIVE OAK probes consist of testing air access with suitably manned civil and military transports, backed up by fighter escort if necessary.

5. LIVE OAK airlift plans provide for the substitution of military for civil transports should this become necessary, the supply of the garrisons of the three powers by military air transport,

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and the evacuation of civilian dependents of the garrisons from Berlin. In addition, there is a plan for the institution of a full-scale airlift operation to support the Berlin economy in the event that civilian ground access was denied.

6. There are LIVE OAK plans for the readying of limited military forces to supplement the probe efforts, to demonstrate determination to react with force, or to test the range of force the Soviets are prepared to apply. These plans provide for a composite tripartite battalion effort, with the possible support of a force up to a division in strength, and the readying of three fighter squadrons, one from each nation, which can be used on air alert, or, if necessary, to protect or escort transport probes.

7. General Norstad has been authorized by the Governments of France, the U.K. and the U.S. to provide to the Permanent Representatives of the North Atlantic Council, additional details of LIVE OAK planning, if they so desire. General Norstad has also been directed to keep the North Atlantic Council informed of any major changes, adjustments or additions to LIVE OAK planning.

8. The three Governments recognize that the implementation of LIVE OAK plans, could have political as well as military implications for NATO. Accordingly, they will be ready, time permitting, to advise and enter into consultation with the North Atlantic Council prior to implementing these plans.