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NETHERLANDS DELEGATION TO THE NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL

PARIS, XVIe,  
Palais de l'O.T.A.N.  
Porte Dauphine

November 3rd 1961

NATO SECRET

nr. 8975

Plan of Action Berlin

Sir,

Referring to my letters of September 4th, 16th and 26th, 1961 I have the honour to submit the following supplementary information on the Netherlands contribution to the major commanders Plans of Action.

A. ARMY.

In document 167/61 SACEUR has recommended an increase of the Netherlands assigned landforces with a sixth brigade. Measures are now in preparation concerning the mobilisable Regimental Combat Team which recently underwent a refresher training. These measures will permit to call up this RCT even before simple alert.

Similar measures are prepared in order to increase in the same way the operational strength of 1 (NL) corps with three tank companies, the necessary logistic units and specialist personnel.

As a result of these measures the total strength will increase with 6500 men.

In order to increase the operational preparedness of the covering forces of 1 (NL) corps, the reinforced light brigade has been stationed at Hohne on the territory of the German Federal Republic as from October 18th, 1961. In case of alert this brigade is ready to take up its wartime mission immediately.

His Excellency  
Mr. D.U. Stikker,  
Secretary General of NATO,  
PARIS.

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As a compensation for the exercises originally planned at La Courtine, France, the brigades of one division are now holding exercises at Hohne in Germany for a period of four weeks. Measures are in preparation in order to enable military exercises to be held also on privately owned areas in the Netherlands.

The training level of atomic delivery units has been raised to a very high level, amongst others by on-the-job training with 7th U.S. Army. The delivery of ammunition and radiological measuring equipment has been accelerated. Negotiations with MAAG with a view to obtain other urgently required equipment and stocks are in progress.

The replacement of obsolescent light tanks, communication equipment and small arms is proceeding. The greater part of the equipment for the mechanisation and motorization of the two M-Day divisions has been ordered. Delivery is expected between December 1962 and June 1964. Orders for the remaining part can soon be placed.

#### B. NAVY.

As a result of the measures taken with regard to the personnel shortage as mentioned in annex B to PO/61/764, one destroyer has been phased forward to category A on October 16th and one ocean escort will be phased forward to category A by the end of 1961. In 1962 one ocean escort, two coastal escorts and one ocean minesweeper will be forwarded to category A.

#### C. AIRFORCE.

1. The combat readiness rate of all fighter/bomber squadrons and the reconnaissance squadron have been raised above 80%.

Increasing of the strike capability of a 2nd fighter/bomber squadron is possible if so desired by SACBUR.

2. Three squadrons of the first Nike Group will be operational before end 1961; the balance of one squadron will become combat ready in the beginning of 1962.

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3. The build-up of the second SAM group has been speeded up in such a way that the first two squadrons will become operational in 1963.

4. The four Hunter squadrons at present available, with a combat readiness rate of more than 70%, will be maintained until April 1962.

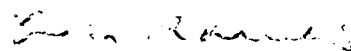
5. Owing to the unfavourable spare parts position, the RCAF will be forced to reduce the number of F 86 K aircraft in actual use. The combat readiness rate of the two remaining AWX squadrons will increase accordingly.

6. The C and R system - including the communication system - is operational on a 24-hours basis. The modernization of equipment is in progress.

7. Airfield dispersal plans are being implemented. Good progress is also being made in pre-stocking of re-deployment airfields. Funds for the realisation of mobile facilities have recently been authorized. Funds for the construction of aircraft shelters for the two strike squadrons on two airfields have been asked for in the 14th Infrastructure slice.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant



(J.A. de Ranitz)  
Deputy Permanent Representative.