

2. Summary Records of the Council on the adherence of Turkey and Greece

(...)

IV. Adherence of Turkey to the North Atlantic Treaty

10. The Council had before them a draft directive to the Defence Committee, which had been approved by the Deputies, in which it was proposed that arrangements should be made to permit both Turkey and Greece to be associated, as appropriate, with such phases of the military planning work of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization as are concerned with the defence of the Mediterranean.

The Council unanimously agreed that it would not be feasible to offer full membership of the North Atlantic Treaty to Turkey, but saw no objection to the modified arrangement in the military sphere which had been proposed. They also agreed that, although no formal approach had been received from the Greek Government, an offer of limited participation should be made to the Greek Government on the same lines.

(...)

I. Adherence of Turkey to the North Atlantic Treaty

2. THE CHAIRMAN informed the Council that in accordance with the decision reached at their 4th meeting (Summary Record C5-R/4 Item IV) he had transmitted the Council's decision orally to the Turkish Ambassador to the United States on the 19th September. The Turkish Ambassador had expressed his disappointment at this decision and pressed strongly for the application to be reconsidered. He had discouraged the Turkish Ambassador's request on the grounds that would merely create additional embarrassment without bringing about any change of view on the part of the Council. So far he had not received any indication from the Turkish Government whether or not they wished to avail themselves of the offer to be associated with such phases of the military planning work of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation as are concerned with the defence of the Mediterranean. In view of this he had not so far made any approach to the Greek Government.

(...)

28. THE UNITED KINGDOM DEPUTY thought that his Ministers would approve the time-table proposed, that is, a meeting, on 15th September at Ottawa and a second at the end of October in Rome, and would also agree that the main emphasis at Ottawa might well be on non-military questions. But they would disagree radically with the United States suggestion that Defence Ministers should not be present, for the following, reasons:

- (a) One item for discussion at Ottawa must be Greece and Turkey, and as command structure was closely linked with that question Defence Ministers must be present.

(...)

4. THE DANISH DEPUTY said that his Government was in favour of a September meeting, and in favour of discussing as many problems as possible at it because Ministers would have a great deal of work in October preparing for the United Nations General Assembly. His Government was opposed to discussing Greece and Turkey in September unless information was available on command structure, but was anxious to discuss economic questions, including that of East/West trade.

(...)

7. THE ITALIAN DEPUTY said that his Government was not in favour of an early meeting unless the question of Greece and Turkey could be finally decided at it. His Government felt that a meeting of the Council without including the question of Greece and Turkey on the Agenda might have dangerous repercussions in those two countries.

(...)

12. THE UNITED STATES DEPUTY said that his Government now agreed that, if it were finally decided, to hold a meeting of the Council in Ottawa in September, those Governments who wished to send Defence-Ministers should do so. His Government considered that the main test as to whether a meeting should be held in September was the possibility of taking definite action then with regard to Greece and Turkey. The last point made by the United Kingdom Deputy was interesting in this connection. The United States had been thinking in terms of the final decision of this question in September, but perhaps it would not be possible to settle the whole question finally then if command structure could only be discussed with the Greeks and Turks after a decision on the method of associating them with the West had been taken. But his Government felt strongly that a decision on the method of associating them, at least, should be reached in September.

It seemed clear that there could be no discussion on Germany or the “gap”. Finally, his Government, in the statement announcing the Meeting, would like to see some such words, in referring to the purpose of the meeting as: “to consider such problems as may be ready for discussion or action by the Council at that time”.

(...)

14. (...)

(ii) A decision on the affiliation of Greece and Turkey with NATO should, if at all possible, be reached at the September meeting although final action, tied up as it was with the command structure, which might have to held over until October.

(...)

17. THE UNITED STATES DEPUTY emphasised again the view of his Government that the main reason for the September Meeting was to make a real effort then to reach a decision on the Greek and Turkish question.

(...)

48. THE FRENCH DEPUTY endorsed this statement, adding that the discussions had shown a considerable divergence between the Brussels Resolution and the demands of Germany. One of the advantages of the French plan for a European army was that it might make it possible to bypass this divergence.

(...)

55. GENERAL LINDSAY said that the Standing Group could not put forward a paper on this point for September unless there were prior agreement on the method of associating Greece and Turkey with the defence of the West

56. THE FRENCH DEPUTY pointed out an apparent vicious circle. The Council Deputies felt that no decision on the method of associating Greece and Turkey with the West could be taken until they knew the command Arrangements that would apply under the various alternatives, while the Standing Group stated that they could not make proposals with regard to command structure until the political issue had been settled. Could the Standing Group be asked to proceed on the assumption that Greece and Turkey would become members of NATO?
