

## Letter from Leslie Fielding to the UK delegation to NATO on inspections done by the Agency for the Control of Armaments (ACA): German submarines (24 January 1963)

**Caption:** On 24 January 1963, Leslie Fielding, a British diplomat in the Western Organisations Department of the Foreign Office, sends a letter to W. M. Mumford, a member of the United Kingdom delegation to North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) in Paris, in which he recalls the importance of pressing for amendments to be made to the figures for submarine tonnage presented by the Federal Republic of Germany to the Agency for the Control of Armaments (ACA). The letter raises the question of the procedural responsibility between the Western European Union (WEU) Council in London and the North Atlantic Council in Paris regarding amendments. The Foreign Office suggests a procedure whereby an amendment can be made within the WEU Council without the need to remit the question again to NATO in Paris. After outlining this procedure, the Foreign Office notes that the UK representative will confirm and support the French Ambassador's remarks at the next WEU Council meeting. This procedure is still subject to the personal approval of Geoffroy Chodron de Courcel, the French Ambassador to the United Kingdom.

**Source:** The National Archives of the UK (TNA). Foreign Office, Political Departments: General Correspondence from 1906-1966. WESTERN ORGANISATIONS & PLANNING (WP): Western European Union (WUW). Meeting of WEU Ministers at The Hague: Armed forces controlled by WEU: UK contribution to European forces; FRG forces. 01/01/1963-31/12/1963, FO 371/173486 (Former Reference Dep: File 1192 (pp 1 to 20)).

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**URL:**

[http://www.cvce.eu/obj/letter\\_from\\_leslie\\_fielding\\_to\\_the\\_uk\\_delegation\\_to\\_nato\\_on\\_inspections\\_done\\_by\\_the\\_agency\\_for\\_the\\_control\\_of\\_armaments\\_aca\\_german\\_submarines\\_24\\_january\\_1963-en-1d78dcfe-ed66-40b6-b03a-9df24a805b06.html](http://www.cvce.eu/obj/letter_from_leslie_fielding_to_the_uk_delegation_to_nato_on_inspections_done_by_the_agency_for_the_control_of_armaments_aca_german_submarines_24_january_1963-en-1d78dcfe-ed66-40b6-b03a-9df24a805b06.html)



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1162 file WUW 1001

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Western Organisations and Planning Dept.

WUW 1192/5

1963

WESTERN EUROPEAN UNION

FROM WEU

SUBJECT Implementation of Article IV of Protocol No. II

SECRET

Information acquired by Council from General Lecomte as a result of inspections concerning NATO forces under allied command in Europe.

No. C (63) 4  
Dated Jan 15  
Received Jan 16

WEU DOCUMENT  
Title No.  
Date References  
Place of issue  
Removed and destroyed

MINUTES  
see WUW 1192/20 (1962) note  
L. Fielding 28/1  
Mr. Mumford

WUW 1075/1

1. Mr. E. Lecomte (fr inf.)
2. back home pt.

(Printing Instructions)

(A) Mr. Mumford UK del NATO Pass to Mr Fielding 24/24/Jan 31

(Outward Action)

Agd) Mr Mumford UK del NATO Pass Jan 24  
for Mr Fielding  
cpd) C. T. McDonnell NOR

6/2

(Action completed)

(Main Indexed)

8/11/2

AD 1/1/63

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WUW 1092/5

Registry No.

Top Secret.  
Secret.  
Confidential.  
Restricted.  
Open.

L.F.

24/1/63

Insert Telephone No. & Ext. when appropriate.

Draft. Letter

To:-

W.M. Mumford,  
Paris.

From:-

L. Fielding

cc:-

C.T. McDonnell,  
Ministry of  
Defence.

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

(What you letter 24234 of January confirms),

Please refer to your letter 24241 of December 20<sup>1962</sup> about the meeting held last year by the WEU Representatives at NATO to consider the force levels specified in Protocol No. II of the revised Brussels Treaty, in accordance with the procedure in C (56) 164, approved by the W.E.U. Council of Ministers on September 15, 1956 (CR (56) 26).

2. You will recall that we agreed in December that you should not press <sup>for</sup> the amendment to the figures <sup>for</sup> submarine tonnage in the 1958 tables (paragraph 3 of my letter to you of November 29, WUW 1192/18 G) if the French <sup>(who were in the lead) were not so disposed.</sup> ~~did not take the initiative.~~ Since then, the position has somewhat changed. The Secretariat in London, apparently on the insistence of the Director of the Armaments Control Agency, take the view that, legally speaking, amendment of the table is now mandatory. The Cosmic tables communicated to the Secretary-General by General Lecomte (see C (63) 4 of January 15) record the fact that the Federal Republic has earmarked four coastal submarines to NATO in 1962. Your letter 24234 of January 23 confirms <sup>and</sup> what General Lombardi has already reported to the Secretary-General, that these vessels displace a tonnage in excess of the ~~1958 figures~~ 350 tons.

4. Frey, the W.E.U. Legal Adviser, held a meeting with Manière of the French Embassy and myself to discuss this problem yesterday.

/Manière

(88081) Hw.

Manière felt that in the ~~se~~ circumstances his authorities were wrong to have dismissed the need for amendment ~~as a mere technicality~~. We therefore agreed on the following procedure, which should serve to put matters right without the need to remit the question again to Paris. At the next Council meeting, when the text of the seven Representatives' report will come up for consideration (i.e. the annex to Mr. Tomlinson's dispatch No. 353 of December 20), the Secretary-General will speak on the lines of the note attached. The French Ambassador will then <sup>(i)</sup> affirm that, ~~in fulfilment of~~ <sup>as ruled in</sup> the recent Triennial Review, the Germans now have coastal submarines under NATO of more than 350 tons, <sup>(ii)</sup> recommend that the 1958 tonnage figure should be changed from 350 to 450 tons, and <sup>(iii)</sup> invite the unanimous approval of the Council in accordance with the procedure in Article III of Protocol No. II. The U.K. Representative will then confirm and support the French Ambassador's remarks. At the following Council meeting (i.e. after other Delegations have had time to secure instructions), formal amendment to the table will be adopted. This procedure is still subject to the personal approval of M. de Courcel but should, I think, prove satisfactory.

5. Your letter of December 20 <sup>also</sup> raised the question of responsibilities as between Paris and London. After consultation with the W.E.U. Secretariat, I confirm that the procedural position on this is as follows:

- (a) It is the responsibility of the W.E.U. Council in London formally to adopt any necessary amendments to the Focal

/ Annex

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Annex to C (58) 180;

(b) It is the responsibility of the W.R.U. Representatives to the North Atlantic Council, <sup>as</sup> delegated by Ministers in 1956, to ascertain whether forces proposed in the course of the NATO Annual Review do or do not fall below the levels specifically laid down in the focal Annex ~~under~~ <sup>above</sup>, and to submit recommendations <sup>where</sup> ~~whether~~ <sup>being</sup> ~~these~~ forces are ~~to be~~ increased above these levels;

(c) The Council in London takes action at (a) on the basis of any recommendation submitted from Paris at (b).

6. In the light of the above, paragraph 4 of your letter is correct, but the latter half of paragraph 3 <sup>needs modifying</sup> ~~is not~~. Amendment of the Treaty restrictions on manufacture of weapons in the Federal Republic is quite distinct from control of levels of forces. Thus, although Germany is <sup>at present</sup> ~~now~~ entitled to manufacture destroyers up to 6,000 tons if she so wishes, and will probably be entitled by the end of 1963 to manufacture submarines up to 1,000 tons, no alteration <sup>will be</sup> ~~is~~ called for to <sup>amend</sup> the focal Annex of C (58) 180 until, in the course of a given Annual Review, ~~in~~ ~~NATO~~, Germany proposes to assign or earmark such vessels to NATO. The Representatives in Paris therefore <sup>need</sup> ~~take~~ no cognizance of what Germany is theoretically entitled to manufacture; their task is exclusively to determine what Germany has <sup>actually</sup> placed under NATO ~~control~~, and whether in consequence existing W.R.U. force levels need be amended.

/ 6.

~~with the~~  
with the envelope,  
6. I am sending a copy of this, to Chris  
McDonnell in the Ministry of Defence.

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24/1

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