

## Report on the inspection exercise in factories in France in spring 1958 (17 June 1958)

**Caption:** On 17 June 1958, the Agency for the Control of Armaments (ACA) of Western European Union (WEU) submits its report on the inspection exercise conducted in factories in France in spring 1958. In its conclusions, the ACA notes that officials in the Ministry of Defence and the management teams in the various factories had prepared for the inspections in great detail. When 'real inspections' are being made, it is important to make sure that certain areas will not be considered as 'secret' and not subject to inspection. The Agency also affirms that relations between the inspection group and the French authorities were most friendly, but that this was because the ACA had acquiesced in the limitations imposed by the French authorities.

**Source:** Agency for the control of Armaments. Division II. Report on inspection exercise of control in factories in France. Spring 1958. 17.06.1958. pp. 1-4. Archives nationales de Luxembourg (ANLux). <http://anlux.lu/>. Western European Union Archives. Armament Bodies. ACA. Agency for the Control of Armaments. Year: 1956 - 01/01/1956- 31/12/1959. File ACA-177. Volume 1/1.

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[http://www.cvce.eu/obj/report\\_on\\_the\\_inspection\\_exercise\\_in\\_factories\\_in\\_france\\_in\\_spring\\_1958\\_17\\_june\\_1958-en-b55a337d-dc78-492f-8144-27d753e4aodo.html](http://www.cvce.eu/obj/report_on_the_inspection_exercise_in_factories_in_france_in_spring_1958_17_june_1958-en-b55a337d-dc78-492f-8144-27d753e4aodo.html)



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17th June 1958

R E P O R T  
ON  
INSPECTION EXERCISE OF CONTROL IN FACTORIES  
I N F R A N C E  
Spring 1958

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REPORT ON THE INSPECTION EXERCISE IN FACTORIES  
I N F R A N C E  
SPRING 1958

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SUMMARY

Date	Name of factory	Type of Material
14th March 1958	ST. MARCEL D'ARDECHE, LES ETABLISSEMENTS REY	Munitions Filling factory
25th April 1958	THE NAVAL ARSENAL, CHERBOURG	Submarine
29th April 1958	MARCEL DASSAULT, BORDEAUX-MERIGNAC	Aircraft

The members of the Inspection Group and French Government representatives were as follows:

at ST. MARCEL D'ARDECHE:    Ing.Gén. COMBES    )  
                                 Lt. Col. GIRON     )    Agency for the  
                                 Ing. MOSTACCI     )    Control of Armaments

Lt. Col. GAUCHET, Etat-Major de la  
Défense nationale  
Commandant CADART, Etat-Major des  
Forces Armées Terrestres (ARMET)

Ing. en Chef PARMENTIER, D.E.F.A.  
Ing. en Chef RICAUD, Directeur du  
Service des Fabrications dans  
l'Industrie pour la région du  
sud-ouest.

M. BERDOT, Chef du détachement de  
Montpellier du SFI.

M. VIDAL, Chef du poste de contrôle (SFI)

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at CHERBOURG NAVAL ARSENAL: Admiral FERRERI )  
Ing. Gén. COMBES ) ACA  
C.V. Post UITERWEER )

Ing. en Chef GASQUET, Directeur  
des Constructions et Armes navales  
Commander FLICHE, Naval Chiefs of Staff  
Captain DAUSSY, Cherbourg Command  
Lt. Commander ROUVIERE, Préfecture  
maritime.

at MARCEL DASSAULT, BORDEAUX-MERIGNAC:

A.V.M. PIDCOCK )  
Ing. Gén. COMBES ) ACA  
Dipl. Ing. CORDUA )

Lt. Col. GAUCHET, Etat-Major de la  
Défense Nationale

Lt. Col. BARTHELOT, Air Ministry  
Commandant Mécanicien TURPIN, Air  
Ministry

Ing. en Chef, CRAVE, Head of the  
Aeronautics Sub-Div.  
at Bordeaux

M. LABARRERE, Head of S.M.P.A. factory  
inspection.

#### SUMMARY OF CONCLUSIONS

The inspections in factories in France had been prepared in great detail by the officials of the Ministry of Defence and by the Direction of the factories.

This preparatory work may be of assistance to the Agency Group by the prior preparation of statements of material but when "real inspections" are commenced this procedure must not be used to prevent the Agency making a complete scrutiny and inspection of the records.

It is also for consideration whether when "real inspections" are being made certain areas can be declared as SECRET and not subject to inspection as at CHERBOURG & MARCEL DASSAULT, BORDEAUX. In such cases it would seem that the "rapid visit procedure" for visits to all parts of a factory should be followed.

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The French and Netherlands authorities maintain that the Agency inspection Group is not entitled to go on board warships under construction or fitting out (vide CR (58) 9) and CD (57) 24 re torpedoes.

It is possible that this position is only taken in regard to "exercises of inspection" and that this attitude will change for "real inspections".

The Agency is charged with the duty of controlling guns of more than 90 mm and mines and should therefore be entitled to go on board all warships under construction to verify their armaments. It seems that this is a question of principle which may have to be referred to the Council at some time.

No information was given to the Agency Group regarding the construction of an atomic propelled submarine except that the construction of the ship had not yet commenced.

The Agency has accepted the French position during "inspection exercises" which has resulted in satisfactory collaboration so far. But it seems that the position claimed by France and Netherlands will have to be clarified before "real inspections" commence.

At all factories the quantities of military material declared by the French Government and the Direction of the factories and the shipyard were confirmed by checks made on the spot.

During the inspection in all three factories the relations between the Agency Group and the French military authorities and the Directors of the factories and shipyards were most friendly but this was only because the Agency Group acquiesced in the limitations imposed by the French authorities during the "exercises" of inspection.

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