The relocation of SHAPE (Marly-le-Roi, 1967)

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[Journalist] General, as an Englishman, does this departure cause any problems for you personally?

[NATO General] Yes, it clearly causes problems for us. Expense ... Moving always has its disadvantages, but for a serviceman, it is, nevertheless, fairly normal. Servicemen get used to breaking the ties of friendship with some garrison or other or with some town or other and to moving around every three years. So, it is not out of the ordinary for servicemen. However, from an emotional point of view, there are several things that we shall miss when leaving France.

[Journalit] And what will you miss most?

[NATO General] Personally, I shall miss contact with French officers most. Three things are necessary for effective cooperation within an alliance: being able to communicate; understanding each other's languages and possessing international understanding; and sharing mutual respect and friendship. The French officers left on 1 July last year, and we can no longer meet them or practise speaking their language. Without that kind of communication, we cannot truly understand their point of view, neither can they understand ours. We can no longer hope to share mutual respect or form friendships.

