

## Note from Lord Hood on the reduction of British forces (London, 14 February 1957)

**Caption:** On 14 February 1957, in anticipation of the forthcoming Western European Union (WEU) Ministerial Meeting, on 26–27 February in London, Lord Hood, British delegate to the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO), forwards a note to the Western Department of the Foreign Office, on the statement he made to the WEU Council concerning the reduction of British forces. The discussion with the different delegates focused on whether or not representatives from NATO should be invited to the next WEU Ministerial Meeting to examine British force reductions.

**Source:** The National Archives of the UK (TNA). Foreign Office: Political Departments: General Correspondence from 1906-1966. WESTERN ORGANISATIONS (WU): Western European Union -WEU (WUW). WEU ministerial meetings. 01/01/1957-31/12/1957, FO 371/131146 (Former Reference Dep: File 1078).

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**URL:**

[http://www.cvce.eu/obj/note\\_from\\_lord\\_hood\\_on\\_the\\_reduction\\_of\\_british\\_forces\\_london\\_14\\_february\\_1957-en-212f0c03-e63f-4ea0-90a5-aa5e109fd224.html](http://www.cvce.eu/obj/note_from_lord_hood_on_the_reduction_of_british_forces_london_14_february_1957-en-212f0c03-e63f-4ea0-90a5-aa5e109fd224.html)



**Last updated:** 25/10/2016

1957

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WESTERN DEPARTMENT

WESTERN ORGANISATIONS

W 1196/114

FROM

To Mr. Hunt  
John Hunt

No.

Dated

Feb 14 1957

Received in  
Registry—

" 19...

WESTERN  
EUROPEAN UNION  
Ministerial meeting

Proposal that a representative of Saccare of  
SHAPE should attend the meeting in order to  
answer question or clarify Saccare's views on  
U.K. defence reductions

References to former relevant papers

MINUTES

*J 19/2*  
A) U.K. Del. Paris No 47 of Feb 22 (copy only)  
(original on WUW 1196/114)

I gave this text to the Secretariat  
on 25/2 *J 25/2*

(Print)

(How disposed of)

(Action  
completed)

*2/12*

(Index)

*18/2/58*

References to later relevant papers

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W.E.U. MINISTERIAL MEETING

421078/16

At the meeting of the Permanent Council this morning when I made the statement about the reduction of British forces, it was agreed that the Secretary-General should send a message to Lord Ismay expressing the hope of the Council that the views of SACEUR on the British plan would be available in good time before the Ministers met.

The Belgian and Dutch Representatives also proposed that a representative of SACEUR should be present at the Ministerial meeting in order to answer questions and provide clarification of SACEUR's written views. The French Ambassador thought this a good idea and the other Representatives appeared also to favour it. I said I thought it might be better to wait and see what SACEUR actually said; but as his paper may not be available until shortly before the meeting the Belgian and Dutch Representatives are pressing that we should ask Lord Ismay to suggest to General Norstad that, if he or the N.A.T.O. military authorities think it would be useful, a representative of SHAPE should attend the Ministerial meeting in order to answer questions or amplify SACEUR's views.

The presence of a SHAPE representative may prove embarrassing to us if SACEUR reacts badly to our plan. But, on the whole, I think we should acquiesce in the Belgian/Dutch proposal, both because it is difficult to object to it and because the absence of a SHAPE representative at the Ministerial meeting might be used as a pretext for deferring the decision on our proposals on the grounds that the meeting had not all the necessary information before it.

I propose, therefore, to let the suggestion go forward to Lord Ismay.

Zoo

J. F. Hoyer Miller

(Hood)  
February 14, 1957

I think this is right.

J. F. Hoyer Miller  
CY. 2.

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At a further meeting of the WEU Council,

all the other Representatives upon in  
favor of this suggestion, and I  
therefore signed

