

Letter from Baron Diederic Wolter van Lynden to Viscount Hood on France's withdrawal from NATO (London, 26 October 1967)


Caption: On 26 October 1967, Baron Diederic Wolter van Lynden, Minister Plenipotentiary at the Dutch Embassy in London, sends a letter to Viscount Hood, Deputy Under-Secretary of State at the Foreign Office and Permanent Representative to Western European Union (WEU), in which he outlines the Dutch proposal to resolve the problems caused by France's withdrawal from the military structure of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO). He especially refers to the impact that France's withdrawal will have on the examination of force levels of WEU Member States under NATO command.

Source: The National Archives of the UK (TNA). Foreign Office, Western Organisations and Co-ordination Department and Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Western Organisations Department: Registered Files (W and WD Series). WESTERN EUROPEAN UNION (WEU). Relations with NATO. 01/01/1967-31/12/1968, FCO 41/267 (Former Reference Dep: WU 4/3/1 PART B).

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URL:
http://www.cvce.eu/obj/letter_from_baron_diederic_wolter_van_lynden_to_viscount_hood_on_france_s_withdrawal_from_nato_london_26_october_1967-en-1e136a0e-ob9c-44dd-830e-3d5cddf885c0.html

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ROYAL NETHERLANDS EMBASSY



Baron D.W. van Lynden

No. WEU-314

10 NOV 1967

W 4/3/1

WOCB (24)

to enter

38, Hyde Park Gate,
London, S.W.7

26th October, 1967.

CONFIDENTIAL

My dear Hood,

As promised during our conversation of this morning, I am sending you with this letter a copy of the little note on our tentative proposal for solving the difficulty with France about the level of forces under NATO-command. I know that after his talk with you Herman gave a copy of this paper both to the Belgian and to the Italian Ambassador, maybe also to the Luxembourg Ambassador. So far, because of Dr. Kiesinger's visit, he has not yet been able to give a copy to Monsieur Blankenhorn.

You asked about the second part of our proposal. You will see that in paragraph b we mention French forces under national command. Checking against our instructions I find that this does indeed cover all French forces for the common defence. In fact our instructions mention the French forces "sous commandement national pour la defense commune".

Both Baron van den Bosch and Monsieur Guidotti told Herman that it was their impression that our proposal would be acceptable to their Governments, but they had, of course, to refer the matter back to their capitals. So far we do not yet have their Governments' reaction.

Yours ever,

Diederik van Lynden.

The Viscount Hood, K.C.M.G.,
Foreign Office,
Whitehall, S.W.1

This shows that I
did record correctly what V. van
Rogge said to me.

I have told Baron de Lynden
that in the light of this letter I can

Level of forces under NATO-command

Since the French Government decided to withdraw all its forces from NATO-command, certain problems have arisen with regard to the implementation of the procedure laid down in the Council's resolution of 15th September, 1956. As France will not take part in the NATO annual review, she will not receive the annual review figures concerning the other W.E.U.-countries. This implies that France cannot usefully participate in the annual meeting of the Permanent Representatives on the North Atlantic Council where the level of forces under NATO-command is examined.

A provisional arrangement might be found along the following lines:-

- a. The six Permanent Representatives of the W.E.U.-countries, with the exception of France, examine, during the Annual Review, whether the level of forces of the six countries concerned fall within the limits specified in articles I and II of Protocol No. II. Having reached a positive conclusion they state this fact. The French Government declares to accept their assurance to this effect;
- b. The other six W.E.U.-countries accept that the figures supplied by the French Government with regard to its forces under national command *for the common defence* indicate that these forces do not exceed the specified limits.