

## Record of the 10th meeting of the Standing Armaments Committee held on 26 July 1956 (Paris, 3 August 1956)

**Caption:** On 3 August 1956, the Secretariat of the Standing Armaments Committee (SAC) circulates the record of the 10th meeting of the SAC, held on 26 July 1956 in Paris. The discussions focus on various subjects including the French Government proposal to study certain aircraft equipment. The French delegate, Engineer-General Bron, confirms that France is about to propose another machine, the Nord 2506 assault transport. In response to the French proposal, the Assistant Secretary-General, Charles Cristofini, states that it is difficult to achieve cooperation on equipment which has already been the object of a national choice and that it is therefore preferable to concentrate on equipment in the study stage. The report also notes that the SAC is studying the United Kingdom's proposals on equipment which is still in its earliest stages of study and which thus does not fall within the remit of FINABEL. The aim of these proposals is to lighten the burden of research and development for the member countries while improving the results of studies.

**Source:** Western European Union. Standing Armament Committee. Report of the 10th meeting of the Standing Armaments Committee, held in Paris on 26th July 1956. Paris: 03.08.1956. SAC (56)R/10. pp.[s.p]; 7-8; corrigendum. Archives nationales de Luxembourg (ANLux). <http://anlux.lu/>. Western European Union Archives. Armament Bodies. CPA/SAC. Comité permanent des armements. File CPA-070. Volume 1/1.

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[http://www.cvce.eu/obj/record\\_of\\_the\\_10th\\_meeting\\_of\\_the\\_standing\\_armaments\\_committee\\_held\\_on\\_26\\_july\\_1956\\_paris\\_3\\_august\\_1956-en-780f2829-65a9-49f1-9fa1-bf289ea1d665.html](http://www.cvce.eu/obj/record_of_the_10th_meeting_of_the_standing_armaments_committee_held_on_26_july_1956_paris_3_august_1956-en-780f2829-65a9-49f1-9fa1-bf289ea1d665.html)



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WESTERN EUROPEAN UNION  
STANDING ARMAMENTS COMMITTEE

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SAC (56) R/10  
Original French  
3rd August 1956

RECORD OF THE 10th MEETING OF THE STANDING ARMAMENTS  
COMMITTEE HELD AT THE PALAIS DE CHAILLOT AT  
3.0 p.m. on THURSDAY, 26th JULY, 1956

CHAIRMAN: Admiral F. CAPPONI (Italy)

Colonel H. GAUL	Federal Republic of Germany
Mr. C. SEEGER-KELBE	
Général A. ROSART	Belgium
Ingénieur Général A. BRON	France
Commandant GARDUMI	Italy
Mr. J.H. LUBBERS	Netherlands
Mr. A.L.M. CARY	United Kingdom

International Secretariat

Mr. C. CRISTOFINI	Assistant Secretary General of W.E.U. Head of the International Secretariat
Mr. B. van der ESCH	Committee Secretary

N.A.T.O. Observer

Ingénieur Général E.J. FISCHER International Secretariat  
(Production and Logistics Division)

The Luxembourg Delegate excused his absence.

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38. Finally, M. CRISTOFINI stated that the setting up of a Working Group seemed unnecessary at this stage, but that the interest shown by certain delegations in the 30 mm. gun would seem to justify bilateral or multilateral exchanges of information furnished by the manufacturers (Aden and Hispano-Suiza).

VIII. FRENCH GOVERNMENT PROPOSALS FOR THE STUDY OF CERTAIN AIRCRAFT EQUIPMENT (SAC (56) D/38 and D/39 para. 1)

39. M. CRISTOFINI asked whether, apart from the Federal Republic which had given a negative reply, other delegations were able to state the positions of their Governments in regard to the French proposals.

40. Mr. CARY said that his Government's reply was contained in para. 1 of the document SAC (56) D/39.

41. Commenting on his Government's reply, Colonel GAUL stated that it was the result of the acceptance of American aid. He wished to point out that his Government were, nonetheless very interested in any studies which might, in the long run, lead to the replacement of equipment now in use.

42. Ingénieur Général BRON stated that the French Government were about to propose a further machine to the Committee: the Nord 2506 assault transport.

43. M. LUBBERS stated that his Government were only interested in the SNCAN 5510 target aircraft and could send an observer if a Working Group were set up. In this case it was not impossible that the Netherlands Authorities would also submit some similar equipment.

44. M. CRISTOFINI felt that the United Kingdom and French proposals of aircraft equipment provided an opportunity for widening the discussion on the lines recently suggested by Mr. CARY and which were tabled for discussion under item IX of the present Agenda. He believed that it was very difficult to achieve co-operation on equipment which had already been the object of a national choice and that, consequently, it would be desirable to concentrate on equipment in the study stage, whose joint production could still be envisaged. M. CRISTOFINI observed that this definition could in many respects be applied to the Gnat. He did not know the United Kingdom's intentions regarding the Gnat, but whatever they might be, this seemed a good moment to raise the general question of day fighters. This was certainly one of the problems with which the countries were most preoccupied, and it would be useful to see if an agreement could be reached on the best way to tackle it.

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45. Mr. CARY wished to underline the difference between this proposal and the United Kingdom's suggestions in the field of study and research. He added that he had been interested to hear M. CRISTOFINI's arguments and that, should one or more countries wish to make a study of the Gnat or other similar aircraft, against a more general background, the United Kingdom would be quite willing to participate.

46. The CHAIRMAN thanked M. CRISTOFINI and Mr. CARY for their statements and suggested that this discussion should be continued between the interested countries at a later date.

IX. STUDY OF THE UNITED KINGDOM PROPOSALS (SAC (56) D/39)

47. Returning to the British proposals contained in document SAC (56) D/39, Mr. CARY stated that these applied in the first instance to work which was still in the laboratory stage and that its aims were to lighten the burden of research and development, and to improve the results of studies through technical contacts within a framework, bilateral or multilateral, which remained to be defined.

48. Admiral CAPPONI stated that his Government were most interested in the British proposals, but would prefer to postpone the consultations envisaged until after the Council of Western European Union had discussed the question of relations between the Committee and FINABEL.

49. In reply, M. CRISTOFINI pointed out that the British proposals applied to equipment which was still in its earliest stages of study, and which thus did not come within the competence of FINABEL. It did not, therefore, seem to him that the connection between the questions made by the Italian authorities, was justified.

50. Ingénieur Général BRON wished to inform the Committee that his Government were in agreement with the British proposals. He suggested that the United Kingdom Government, as well as any other interested countries, should submit to the Committee some of the problems they wished to have discussed. In the light of this information, the Committee could then discuss the best means of establishing contacts.

51. The other delegates, having expressed the interest of their Governments in the British proposals, agreed with the point of view expressed by Général BRON and the Committee requested delegations to submit their proposals to the Secretariat, which would circulate them as soon as possible.

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