

Second joint meeting of the HNSC held at Panmunjon on the 2nd of August 1953

PERSONNEL PRESENT:

Members of the HNSC:

Czechoslovakia: Gen. Lt. Frantisek Bures
 Poland: Maj. Gen. Mieczyslaw Wagrowski
 Sweden: Maj. Gen. S. Grevstroom
 Switzerland: Maj. Gen. F. Hahner

Alternates:

Czechoslovakia: Col. Jiri Stary
 Poland: Ediclaw Ribrowski
 Sweden: Brig. Gen. P. Mohn
 Switzerland: Brig. Gen. E. Anser

with their staff members.

MEETING RECONVENED at 1505

CZECHOSLOVAKIA:

With your agreement I will be the Chairman of today's meeting. I beg now to stress out that a definite agreement has to be taken as soon as possible in this matter.

We wish for a round table but we are sorry not to have it yet. We hope to get it soon.

SWEDEN

I suggest that the interpreters be sitting at the same table and not standing up during the interpretation.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

I open our second meeting of the HNSC, alternates of the HNSC agreed on one point of today's session. This point is to send out inspection teams to the ports of entry in South and North Korea. I ask the honorable Delegates if they agree on this point.

SWEDEN

I agree.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

In this matter we discussed considerable questions. The composing of the armistice contains the organization, transportation, armement with the HNSC communication and security to and in the ports of entry, billeting and other facilities. May be the honorable delegates have some request to this matter. Our most important point must be brought to the composition of the teams and we would like to know your opinion.

POLAND

The question of the sending out of the different teams to North and South Korea is very important and must be solved as soon as possible. The agreement of the Armistice does not give any particulars in this point. The question is not only when they have to depart but the main question is where they have to go and what to do when there. The groups have to be furnished with enough staff. The proposition provides four members in each team, or two members as contained in the agreement.



Four officers and four assistants that makes altogether eight members in each team. These four members and their assistants have at least one interpreter or eight for each team and the group should also have a secretary that makes four.

The proposition of the assistance provides communications between the teams and their principles with own radio operators, at least two of them. This is very important to the neutrality of the delegations. From this point of view it is very important to have transportation facilities of their own at least one limousine and one lorry to transport the goods like tables, equipment etc, and therefore I suggest three drivers for each team.

SWEDEN

We want before all to speak about the composition of the teams.

POLAND

If I mentioned these events I concerned them in some connection. It is necessary to have in each team one medicine and one auxiliary and a cook because they have to work under conditions where no help can be supplied. That is why I suggest the composition of the twenty groups in regard of the personnel as follows :

- 2 radio operators
- 3 drivers
- 1 doctor
- 1 cook

We should have the same composition in the mobile teams. The Czechoslovakian Delegate has the same opinion of the composition of the groups.

SWITZERLAND

You stated nearly the same organisation as we did but it seems to us that it is rather clumsy and therefore we would like to make the following proposition :

- 4 officers
- 4 aides
- 1 medical person
- Radio operators and drivers

SWEDEN

For our part I am very embarrassed. We have no physical possibilities to meet the plan that our honorable Polish delegate put forward. I am also afraid that we have no physical possibilities to agree with the statement of our Swiss colleague. We have no means to send out more than one officer to each team. With regard to the cooks and drivers the honorable Polish Delegate said that he thought they should be from our own groups and we should not be dependent in this respect of the parts in whose territories the teams are settled. I am afraid we will have no means to agree with that because we have not enough people. The honorable Polish Delegate said that he must maintain the neutrality but I am convinced that you will agree that the question of neutrality is completely saved even if the logistic support needed will be provided by the North or South part. I cannot think that our neutrality in this way will be put

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in question. In a situation like this, even the emperor has lost his right and I am therefore afraid that we must save the organization within the limits of our own resources. Thank you.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

I think the main thing is to fix first the number of the members of each delegation. The agreement of the armistice does not mention a limited number of personnel in the groups. Therefore it is quite legal to supply auxiliary personnel of each country of of the respective sides.

FRANCE

May I ask you to precise your meaning of " auxiliary personnel "

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

The head points in each team are the chief, his alternate, the secretary and the interpreter. The auxiliary personnel would be drivers, radio operators, cooks and medical personnel.

SWITZERLAND

We have not enough people to form the teams in this way. Our proposal is :

- 1 officer
- 1 alternate

and to take the radio operators and the drivers out of the respective side. It is not to forget that we have ten fixed teams and ten mobile teams that makes together quite a lot of people.

POLAND

We have partly studied your plan of organization. Therein we saw from your proposal that your secretary should be composed by a head secretary, sub-secretaries and branches. Our opinion is that the teams have the most important job to do and we propose that we should perhaps cut down the staff in favour of the teams. It seems to me that the Swiss proposal comes very near to mine. I suppose there must be sufficiently staff in each part of entry because if there is anyone sick there must be somebody who can replace and take decisions. The proposition of the armistice does not prescribe an equal number of personnel. Therefore if the delegations will not have the possibility to hold their meetings if there is somebody absent. There must be an alternate in order to make the team able to work. The truce agreement handed over to us from the UN authorities provide at least four officers in the group and two in the sub-group. They have to supervise the replacement of personnel and material not only in the ports but also in the railway stations airports etc, and therefore a cut down of personnel would get the central illusory. It might happen that they must watch at the same time on two spots. It seems to me that the stand taken by the Swiss delegate give the possibility to an understanding. It means one officer and one alternate and about the auxiliary personnel we shall surely agree later.

GERMANY

We have to come to an agreement or we will not be able to work. On the other hand I ask you to understand our possibilities. We cannot send out more people than we have, we discussed before the principle and the auxiliary personnel. We loose time if we base on personnel we do not have instead of what we really dispose of. I think we have to reduce the question to the more important part, that is the chief and his alternate, secretary and interpreter.

I will say that we will try by reducing the main staff or in some other way to get two officers for each team from Sweden. I know that it would be impossible to provide each team with a secretary from all nationalities and I think we must rely upon the both sides. The secretary duty could be done by one person in the team for the four nations. Regarding the interpreters there are two sides of this problem. The four members and their alternates must be able to understand each other. I should very much deplore if we could not get themselves to deal with each other. I am convinced that on the Czechoslovakian and Polish side the officers must in some way be able to manage some other European language, as German, or French or English and I therefore think we should need not dwell too long on the question about the interpreters to understand each other. Then we have the question of interpreters in order to be able to communicate with the local authorities. I think this will be a problem. The same problem for the North and South. For this purpose we, the Swiss and Swedes are able to provide at least one interpreter for each team. This concerns the Chinese and for my part I believe that a Chinese speaking person always will be able to get in some contact with a Korean who could translate the meaning to be understood. My proposition should be ~~-----~~ and I now speak only about the qualified personnel. My proposition is that every nation sends out one chief for the team and provides him with an aide so that the team itself can handle the secretariate. The alternate could take of that. We will try to dispose of the interpreters so we shall furnish them for the natives in the South and in the North. My honorable Polish colleague said that the truce agreement foresees not less than four respectively two officers in each team. My interpretation of this is, and has always been that the said subteams should be made out from the ordinary teams so that if there will be a situation where the team has to work at two places at the same time, one member of the team pointed out by the two parties should go out to the certain place and that there should be left another member from each side. I therefore do not think that this stipulation about the sub-teams will make any difficulties to us. May I add that we have some officers able to make them a little understood in Russian and that could also facilitate the language situation.

SWITZERLAND

Article 40 B says : " Each Neutral Nation inspecting team shall be composed if we base our decision on this paragraph we can form our teams like we proposed it: one officer (major) and one officer or enlisted man (Company officer) as an aide. We are asking you if we could have interpreters for Czechoslovakian and Polish. Our officers thoroughly know French and English and thus an understanding could surely be made with the help of these interpreters. We have not enough people to furnish the teams as you proposed it.

CZECHOSLOVAKIAN

A question of order : The Swiss Delegate stated paragraph 40B but he did not mention the following sentence about additional personnel " Additional personnel such as drivers

POLAND

As far as I know the Swiss Government declared and especially stressed the absolute Neutrality of the Delegation and also declared that the officers being sent out to Korea would be completely equipped by the Swiss Government. We, on our side have done everything as regards equipment and staff to strengthen Neutrality in our work.

Paragraph 40 B of the agreement provides two possibilities that auxiliary personnel can be furnished by the two parties or by the two countries. It seems to me, in order to secure neutrality that neutral nations should themselves provide personnel and equipment of their own. At this moment our group and our equipment is not complete. I hope they will arrive here soon. Sweden is certainly in a position to complete their own personnel so that we would not be compelled to rely on either of the two parties. We are realistic that something can be done in this matter and what seems to you impossible seems to us possible. We on our part had quite a lot of embarrassment. The Swedish officers know German, English and so on and some of them even Russian. Our officers were grown up in battles and did not get the opportunity to learn languages so we on our side had to take interpreters with us who are civilians and some even women, to put us on an equal level. Besides our officers do not speak English and that compels us to insist on the question of the interpreters.

SWITZERLAND

We would like to interrupt the session for ten minutes in order to discuss matters with our Swedish colleagues, and by the same I would like to stress upon the fact that according to article 40 B the neutrality is not involved if we take our auxiliary personnel from one of the parties.

interruption of the party for ten minutes.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

Can we go on.

SWITZERLAND

We have examined our possibilities. We can dispose of one officer (field grade) and one Company officer, but we do not dispose of further personnel. We must rely upon article 40B of the agreement. Our Government has made ready about 84 men and out of these men we must organize a staff. The auxiliary personnel we shall need must be put at our disposal from both sides. If you need further interpreters you can order them. You are free in this matter. We all are speaking English or German. But there are also reports to dress and to translate them in English. Our officers will have to do the secretary work themselves. We are not in a position to put secretaries at their disposal.

SWITZER

We agree with Switzerland. Poland says we have the possibility of calling further personnel from Sweden but the Swedish Government has taken a decision and we cannot alter the facts. On the other hand we wish to start our work as soon as possible. From your lists we gather that your delegation count 250 members. We, on the other side have only 80 men each. You extended the meaning of neutrality more than we did. We are forced to consider the situation in a realistic way and how it is. You may send your 250 members and we our 80 men. We have to see our possibilities to increase our groups and I would like to underline these facts we have tried to make clear as far as neutrality is concerned. It is not only article 40 B, but also article which has to be taken into consideration. We, the Swiss and the Swedes have based ourselves on the agreement and we never thought that our neutrality could be doubted on account of our intention to take

advantage of the auxiliary personnel put at our disposal from both sides. Gentlemen I must ask you to count with those those possibilities we can offer and not to consider a situation you would like to have. We must discuss facts in order to allow us to put our teams to work. We cannot build up a small army

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

The Czechoslovakian Government has taken a similar decision as the Polish Government. We would like to have teams as strong and independent as possible but it is in no way a small army. But I am convinced that we all are of opinion that for every team an officer and an alternate are required. This would make 40 members. All other personnel is auxiliary personnel. The difference between the Swiss and Swedish team in comparison with our teams lies in the fact that we have among our members a lot of young people not able of speaking a foreign language and we there require two interpreters for our two languages. For twenty groups this makes another 40 persons and in addition to that the auxiliary personnel. This makes a considerable number for the whole delegation. We always counted on our own personnel and equipment. We even considered the fact of having our own guards. For our task it does not matter whether a nation is working with its own people or whether it will avail itself of the auxiliary staff put at their disposal by the parties. The neutrality is not involved by doing so. As it has been stated by the honorable Swiss and Swedish Delegates we agree to have 8 members in a team that is two of each side. The auxiliary personnel can be requested by the parties concerned

SWITZERLAND

We have great pleasure in stating the fact that we agree. Every team shall be formed by an officer (field grade) an alternate (company officer) and as far as other personnel is concerned we will leave these discussions to our alternates and we therefore can take afterwards a definite decision.

POLAND (alternate)

We are pleased to see that we agree in the basic questions as far as teams are concerned and that the main personnel shall be formed by 2 officers of each state. The grade seems to me to be of a minor importance. We have but a few majors and on the other hand more higher graduated officers, who cannot be degraded. If I understood you well our personnel shall be composed of 2 interpreters and one secretary this will*them to get on the same level, as far as knowledge of languages is concerned. I think we could take a decision on this point and we would like to proceed in such a way

*allow

8 persons, 4 chiefs each and 4 alternates each and as auxiliary personnel 1 secretary and 2 interpreters, 3 drivers 2 radio operators, a medicinal person and a cook that means that this auxiliary personnel can be added but there is no obligation to do so. Each delegate is free to say whether he he wants it or not and from which side he wishes to have it.

Thus we would act according to the instructions of our governments and thus we all will observe the truce agreement. It is very probable that we will not have the maximum figure in some of our groups. We are awaiting some cooks but under these circumstances it is not necessary to bring them here but on the other hand we cannot send people back

SWEDEN

I appreciate the Swiss proposal that our alternates shall have to discuss the question of organization in detail. There is however another question I would like to come back to. With regard that you have been so kind to us as to offer us interpreters for our teams

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we are very grateful because it may be impossible for our officers to speak certain languages, I wonder if you could not let one or both interpreters help as secretaries in the teams. We have now discussed over each team. We accepted with pleasure the help which could be offered by the Polish and Czechoslovakian side. The same applies to the medical service, in each team for we don't have doctors for each team and we therefore would appreciate your help in this matter. It seems to be efficient that the alternates work out the whole problem.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

We agree to the Swedish proposal.

POLAND

I think we all agree that our alternates will have to work out the details.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

Poland agreed and so do we. Have you other questions to discuss in regard to the organization of our teams?

SWEDEN

We still have other items to discuss as you mentioned and I would like to do it now. I therefore propose to discuss questions on communication, transportation, instruction and security. A solution has to be found for these items before we shall be able to go on.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

I asked this question as a Czechoslovakian member not as a chairman.

SWEDEN

We can begin with the problem of transports.. I am in a position to indicate to you what will be at our disposal on the South side and we would like you to indicate to us what can be offered in this respect from the North. The teams will be transported as follows:

From Panmunjom to Seoul by helicopter and from there to the ports of entry by ordinary planes. In the ports exist the following transportation facilities (Incheon, Taegu and Pusan) buses in Incheon, and Kangnung : jeeps

These are previous indications. The headquarters will need additional transport facilities in order visit the different teams, this will take place by air.

~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ POLAND

The question of transportation is a very important one. I much regret that so far we have no indications as to how this problem will be solved on the Northern side. The Polish group has, as a main transport facility, cars, bicycles and jeeps etc. As we were travelling to this place we noticed that most of the roads and railway tracks in North Korea are in a good condition and in this connection we have to consider two questions :

first: The transport to the ports of entry
second : the freedom to move within the ports of entry.

Our cars and those of the Czechoslovakian members have not arrived as yet and we therefore are obliged to base our calculations on the transport facilities on both sides. The next question will deal with the food. We would like to provide our teams with their national food and we would like to bring once a month the necessary provisions to our teams.

This could be done by our own lorries and by our own drivers. But another question will be the question of security in the ports of entry and on the way to these places. The NSCC should guarantee full security for our teams.

Another important item is the question of billeting. The whole team should be billeted in the same building or at least in buildings in the neighbourhood of each other, and there are other questions which I may ask later on.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

I noticed with great pleasure the indications given by the honorable Swedish Delegate and I understood it in such a way that these transport facilities are offered for the time being. After arrival of our cars and our drivers we shall be able to use our own equipment. I furthermore would like to consider the question of visiting our teams. I had raised this question myself. It seems to me quite O.K. that a chief shall be entitled to visit and control his teams and to examine the conditions under which the members of his teams will have to work and live. The delegate should be entitled to indicate one of his officers charged with these inspections.

SWITZERLAND

To take the last question first, I do not see any reason to charge an inspecting officer with this work but we may discuss this item later on. May I revert to a remark of my Polish colleague. It concerns the security of the teams. As to me I am in a position to communicate to you that the security of all teams on the South side will be guaranteed in every way by the UN and that the protection of our teams will be in the hands of the UN Military Police.

I very much sympathize with the Polish Delegate as far as food is concerned and the question of billeting can be solved in the way Poland wishes to have it. The members of the four nations will be billeted in the same tents or houses or houses near by and as to transport to the ports of entry we have to report to the authorities on our side. We are therefore obliged to leave this question open. On the other hand we have no uneasiness as far as security is concerned on the Northern side. Personally I do not see any difficulties in taking advantage of the transport facilities offered to us by the North. We have to contact our side and you have to contact your side.

Furthermore there is the question of liaison officers for local authorities. Our teams in the South will be billeted in places being under the authority of a UN Local Commander and this one will put at the disposal of the teams a liaison officer. I therefore ask you whether the same conditions will be found on the North side. I do think that such a link is necessary and consider it to be by no means to be an unimportant question.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

I would like to tell my Swedish Colleague that I am too of opinion that the question of liaison officers has to be settled and how this will be done on the North side we shall communicate to you as soon as possible. Are there other questions?

SWITZERLAND

We have left one item open for discussion. It is the question of communication. There will be an extensive net of telepoints in the South comprising all parts of entry and in addition to that there is a telephon communication with Fankunjon. How is the situation in the North? Again in the South we can dispense of Radio communication. In the North we have teleprints.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

We shall inform you as soon as possible. The communication with our groups will be established by our own radio operators and radio material and Sweden and Switzerland

are invited to use them. We suppose that communications will be quite OK. We should arrange a meeting of those officers chosen for this service and invite them to clear this question.

SWEDEN

The question of radio communication has been studied with the UN. Connections will be difficult to obtain on account of the enormous distances. It is quite possible for you to take your means of communications to the South, but I would like to point out to you the fact that it will be difficult at times to obtain regularly communications

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

We imagined that radio would be the main means of communication for us and if difficulties will arise we shall have to report with both sides.

POLAND

We agree in this matter. May I suggest that the alternates meet tomorrow at the same time as today and that the Committee shall have to give proposals about terms to the full assembly. If time will permit to do so we shall discuss the organisation of headquarters as the next question

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

I agree and point out that a Swedish delegate will be chairman of tomorrow's session.

SWEDEN

May I submit to you and your Polish colleagues proposals in writing concerning secretariate and filing. But these questions will have to be solved later on. The release of the proceeds will be handed over by the alternates at to-morrow's meeting

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

I beg to ask Sweden and Switzerland to inform me whether they agree that ^{we} close this session and that our alternates shall meet tomorrow at 1000 and ourselves at 1500 to continue our deliberations.

All agree

End of the meeting at 1830