

ITALY

16. The centre of military importance in the Central Mediterranean has shifted from Greece to Italy. The inclusion of Italy in the Atlantic Treaty has meant that allied plans for defence in Europe will have to provide protection for her as well. The military restrictions of the Peace Treaty will have to be lifted and military aid provided to her. It will be of considerable advantage to Canadian military planners to have firsthand intelligence on the capabilities of the Italian Army when the allocation of forces for the defence of Europe is being made. It is recommended that a military attaché post be established in Rome without delay.

GREECE

17. The Military Attaché post in Greece, which was established in September 1947, has produced a considerable volume of useful intelligence on this focal point of both Soviet and American policy in the Balkans. Very detailed and accurate information on Soviet-sponsored activities and on the progress of the civil war has been reported by the Military Attaché. However, the importance of Greece from the military intelligence point of view, has diminished. Although our Attaché has succeeded in obtaining a good deal of information from the Greek General Staff and on the Balkan Satellites, it has proved to be quite unreliable and hence of little value in Ottawa. It is proposed to discontinue this post when the tour of duty of the present Attaché is concluded.

TURKEY

18. The Turkish Army of over 300,000 men, in the process of being re-equipped and mechanized by U.S. aid, is the only significant ground force between the USSR and the Suez Canal. Our Attaché in Ankara has been given unusual opportunities to observe the Turkish Army and certain of the more important fortified lines on which the Army will fight if attacked. It is suggested that the coverage provided by the Attaché should be continued.

ARGENTINA

19. Since the appointment of an Air Attaché to Argentina, air information on the country has been received well in advance of similar intelligence from the U.S. and U.K. In particular, reports on the reorganization of the Argentine Armed Forces, notes on the employment of foreign nationals in the services and research units, and reports on aircraft acquisitions and maintenance problems have been received. However, it is undeniable that Argentina ranks low on the list of nations representing targets of intelligence interest. It is therefore proposed to withdraw this attaché and utilize this position elsewhere.

GERMANY

20. The Department of External Affairs has decided to establish a mission at Bonn and accordingly are moving some of the staff of the present Berlin military mission there. However, it is felt that it is imperative for political and psychological reasons that a mission in Berlin should be kept open. Although the amount of political reporting which can be done is limited, it is considered that Berlin is an extremely useful source of information concerning Soviet military activity and