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file: RM *Wheeler*

ECIA-262

Chief, EE

19 August 1957

Chief, CACROZE

Info: COS
POB

Operational/CALL/Liaison

RHELLATE's Future and the NATO Standing Committee

REF: ECIA-254

ACTION REQUIRED: None. For your information.

DATE INFO ACQUIRED: 9-13 August 1957

1. According to RHELLATE a decision was reached recently to establish a "military committee" in the U.S. composed of the smaller NATO nations and which will have the NATO Standing Committee under it. Reportedly this decision was reached in Washington during the last NATO Chiefs of Staff Conference. This committee runs parallel to the Spaak Committee.

2. Admiral Radford originally went along with the view expressed by some Chiefs of Staff that the smaller nations should participate in the Standing Committee. However he reportedly reversed himself and agreed with the suggestion by the German Chief of Staff that a military committee should be appointed, composed of representatives of the smaller nations. The Military Committee will be headed by a four-star General from one of the smaller nations who will serve as rotating Chairman for a two-year term.

3. A decision will be made this fall as to who will be the first Chairman. RHELLATE thinks it will go to either the Chief of Staff of Canada or the Netherlands. Reportedly the German Chief of Staff hopes to become Chairman of the Military Committee in late 1959 or early 1960, following the first Chairman to be appointed late this year.

4. RHELLATE is obviously pleased with his present assignment. He has not been the subject of criticism recently, which may be partly attributable to the opponents' preoccupation with the elections. He personally anticipates no change in his status following the elections or for the foreseeable future. His personal relationship with UPTHRUST is as good as ever, and he sees him frequently. It is my impression that many military policy decisions are made by UPTHRUST in collaboration with RHELLATE much to the chagrin of the latter's boss.

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