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DEFENCE OF NATO'S NORTHERN FLANK

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1. COMMON shield

It is a great pleasure for me to wish you welcome to North Norway.

2. Kart, Nord-Norges plassering

You may be interested to know that we are located about 160 km North of the Arctic Circle, nearly at 70° and a latitude corresponding to Baffin Island in Canada, and Prudhoe Bay in Alaska.

The relatively mild climate, ice-free ports and farmable land high up in the valleys is of course due to the warm waters coming from the Gulf of Mexico.

As Military commander for North Norway, my responsibility includes the area North of 65°, that is just North of Trondheim, and the island of Jan Mayen. Spitsbergen with Bear Island is also sovereign Norwegian territory, but the 1920 Treaty prohibits establishment of Naval bases and fortifications, and states that the islands must never be used for any warlike purposes.

4. Finnmark, Troms, Nordland

North Norway comprises three counties - Finnmark, Troms and Nordland - with an area which totals about 1/3 of Norway's national territory. As regards inhabitants, North Norway

has only 466.000 people - or about 1/10 of the total population. This is a fact of importance in security and defence matters.

5. Fishing-
boat

In spite of the climatic and topographical conditions in North Norway, you will find that the people here do not merely survive. The many local communities are in fact very much alive and thriving!

Fisheries only rank 3rd in number of people employed. But they are most important, because they provide the basis for a decentralized population along the coast and on the islands. Unfortunately, the fish resources at sea have declined dramatically lately, despite regulatory measures.

6. Mo i Rana

Raising of new industries is therefore an important aim in order to retain, and if possible increase the population in North Norway. Mo i Rana in Nordland is one of our "new towns", where the establishment of the iron works have resulted in that the population has risen from about 7.000 in 1948 to about 27.000 today.

7. Narvik
- KV

Another example of new industries is the Kongsberg Våpenfabrikk subsidiary at Narvik, producing electronic and high precision mechanical components.

8. Oil Plat-
form

At present, the best prospect for new enterprises in North Norway seem to be oil. Drilling commenced on two blocks about 50 n m North of Tromsø in 1980. This summer, test

drilling has been extended to two new blocks off Tromsø, and two blocks at the Halten bank further south. The prospects are good, although producable deposits have not yet been found.

The strategic importance of the area, as we see it, is mainly due to two factors:

9. Polar projection (ny) - North Norway lies on the shortest route between the two superpowers, the US and the Soviet Union.
10. Map Northern Cap - North Norway and Jan Mayen also flanks the transit routes between the icefree ports on Kola, and the Atlantic Ocean.
- 10B Kola base area On Kola the Soviet Union has built up an important base complex during the last 15 - 20 years. This includes ports for about 70 % of their Strategic submarines with ballistic missiles, and for a large number of other types of submarines.
11. Norfleet O of B The Soviet Northern fleet also includes a growing number of major surface combatants. The KIEV has been deployed to the Northern Fleet, but is presently in the Mediterranean.
12. KIEV The latest addition is the nuclear cruiser Kirov, which joined the Northern fleet in October last.
13. KIROV
14. ROPUCHKA For us it is of more direct interest that the Northern fleet also has an amphibious lift capability, and that there is a Naval Infantry Regiment located in the Pechenga area.

15. Ground forces, Kola The peacetime combat ground forces on Kola are comprised of two motorized rifle divisions, as well as artillery, rocket and anti-aircraft brigades normally found at army level. On Kola there are also two mobilization divisions. Although the ground forces possess considerable offensive capability, we do not believe that any major operations could be mounted against Norwegian territory without prior reinforcement of the Soviet ground forces on Kola. This would take time, and also provide us with prior warning.
16. Badger The Northern Fleet Aviation include long range
17. Backfire reconnaissance and about 90 strike aircraft of the TU-16 Badger type. Backfires belonging to the Naval or Long Range Aviation are occasionally deployed to airfields on Kola, from which they fly missions to the North. This is a picture of the first Backfires to fly west of North Cape, taken about 70 nm west of Lofoten on the 10th of June.
18. Flogger B About 100 air defence aircraft are stationed on Kola, including newer types with greater range and versatility, like this Flogger B as seen from the cockpit of a Norwegian P-3B.
19. Foxbat The only tactical aircraft permanently deployed to Kola are two regiments of reconnaissance aircraft. This Foxbat tactical reconnaissance aircraft was intercepted North-East of Finnmark, where they fly regular missions.

Ground attack fighter-bombers are not permanently deployed to Kola, but arrive occasionally for exercises. It must however be taken into consideration that tactical aircraft can be deployed to the airfields on Kola relatively rapidly, and with short warning. And on this slide is shown operational ranges of the relevant Soviet tactical aircraft.

20. Soviet aircraft ranges

In spite of the military build-up in our immediate neighbourhood, it is the aim of Norwegian policy to maintain a situation of "low tension" in the area. To this end, we practise certain restraints on allied military activities in the easternmost areas, in order to reassure the Soviet about our strictly defensive objectives.

On the other hand, the presence of the Soviet base complex on Kola with its strategic and tactical components links the area to the military balance in other regions:

21. DELTA III

- The ballistic missile carrying submarines constitute a major part of the Soviet second strike capability. They therefore links the area and the exit routes to the central balance between the superpowers.

22. Spring exercise 75

- The Soviet naval strike aircraft operating from Kola, as well as the missile and torpedo attack submarines of the Northern fleet constitute a threat to NATO's naval forces and to the sea lines of communications across the Atlantic. They therefore links the area to the balance of power at the European level.

23. Amfibie
øV

- At last, the Soviet air and naval forces with their amphibious lift, and the ground forces represent a potential threat to Norwegian territory at the local level.

24. Map,
Northern
Cap

From a Soviet point of view access to and control of our area in the NORTH would ensure:

- Increased protection for the Kola base complex, and dispersal for the NORTHERN FLEET.
- Safe exit for Soviet surface and submarine forces to Western sea areas.
- From airfields on our area it would also be possible to support Soviet naval operations in the Norwegian sea with land based aircraft.

In view of present Norwegian defences, and being a member of NATO, we believe that an isolated attack on Norwegian territory is highly unlikely. In a situation of increased international tension, however, the advantages which Norwegian territory could mean for the survivability and the operational freedom of the Northern fleet could induce motives for a Soviet preemptive attack against Norwegian territory. This is particularly so, if the Soviets arrive at the conclusion that an armed conflict with NATO is unavoidable. Norwegian defence policy, and the posture of our forces is therefore aimed, as far as possible, at blocking a pre-emptive attack on North Norway.

For NATO, our territory in the North includes some important advantages:

25. Radar coverage - Radar stations on Norwegian territory provide good coverage and early warning of Soviet air activities. Data from the radar chain is automatically transferred to the control centres of NATO's integrated air defences.
26. P 3-B Envelope - Norwegian maritime patrol aircraft conduct daily surveillance of Soviet surface ships and submarines moving out of the local waters into Western Sea areas. This surveillance is closely coordinated with corresponding allied activities from Iceland and Scotland.
27. Air defence - Airfields in North Norway lastly form the vital third corner of NATO's integrated air defence system over the Norwegian Sea. This will provide a hostile air environment for Soviet air and naval forces trying to penetrate to the Atlantic to cut the lines of communication between the North American continent and Western Europe.
28. Intercept Norwegian air defence aircraft, incidentally, perform between 180 and 200 intercepts per year of Soviet aircraft over the Norwegian Sea. I would like to add, however, that all these intercepts take place well outside Norwegian national territory.

It is also reasonable that when we have had so few violations of our national air space, it is due to the fact that we maintain a high readiness as regards air defence aircraft.

Norwegian defence.

29. In position Norwegian defence is, as I have already mentioned, primarily oriented towards blocking and therefore also deterring an aggression against North Norway. Because of our limited resources compared to the large areas to be defended, it has been necessary to impose some hard priorities. Geographically, our defence effort is concentrated in the Troms, Ofoten and Bodø areas.
30. Vital areas
31. Standing Forces, Troms Our standing army forces include a brigade group in Troms, the Skibotn valley and on Hinnøya. The army forces are
32. KA gun protected on the sea front by a system of coastal defences, comprised of forts, mine stations and torpedo batteries.
33. KA forts These block all the entrances to the vital Troms area from the Lyngenfiord in the East to the Ofoten fiord in the
34. Kobben South. The mobile elements of the coastal defences include
35. TKB 3-4 submarines, 1-2 fast missile boat squadrons, and 1-2
36. Frigate frigates deployed to North Norway at all times. In addition, the Norwegian navy maintains minelayers, mine-sweepers and landing craft in North Norway.
37. F-104G/
CF-104 We have a squadron of AWX fighters, and a squadron of fighter bombers in the anti shipping role permanently
38. P-3B deployed at Bodø. These are now in the process of converting to F-16. There is a MPA squadron with P-3B aircraft at Andøya and a helicopter squadron for support of the army at Bardufoss. The main military airfields in North Norway are provided with underground and/or hardened shelters for combat aircraft, as well as standing anti-aircraft gun defences. They also have tank and infantry units as protection against surprise airborne

landings.

39. Standing forces
Finnmark
- In Finnmark we have a standing battalion group in Banak - Porsanger, and a smaller infantry battalion in South Varanger. In Finnmark there are also 3 early warning radar stations, 4 coastal radar stations, and a forward military airfield for rapid reinforcement and staging of combat aircraft.
40. Mob signal
- Since standing forces in North Norway are limited, it should be taken into consideration that we have a well organized and highly decentralized mobilization system.
41. Mob forces,
Finnmark
- In Finnmark, the mobilization forces increase the total strenght to more than brigade size in 24-36 hours.
42. Mob forces
Troms etc
- In Troms-Ofoten and the Bodø-Salt en areas we mobilize two additional brigades, as well as combat support and logistical supply units in less than 48 hours.
43. National reinforce-
ments
- We have also made arrangements for rapid deployment of national reinforcements from South Norway to North Norway. The national reinforcements include.
- Two brigades, and an infantry battalion. For one of the brigades, and the infantry battalion the heavy equipment of the units has been prepositioned in North Norway. This means that the forces can be called up and transferred to North Norway by air in less that 48 hours. This is regularly exercised.

- We will also get a considerable increment of dedicated submarines, fast missile boats and frigates, 65% of which within 1-4 days.
- And, lastly the national reinforcements include one FBA squadron and a photo reconnaissance detachment which can be deployed to North Norway in 4-10 hours. This is also exercised regularly.

Allied reinforcements

44. Allied soldiers

Although we consider that we have a fair defence potential in North Norway, allied reinforcements play a vital role to make a sustained defence possible, and also to increase the deterrent effect of the defences in the area.

45. Allied reinforcements, ground

Current plans for ground reinforcements include several options:

- AMF(L) has North Norway as one of its contingency areas. AMF(L) is primarily a deterrent force, and may therefore not be considered as a reinforcement. The deployment will be dependent upon agreement by the 7 contributing nations, and also that they can provide sufficient air transport at the time when deployment is desirable.
- The British - Netherlands Royal Marine Commando force train in North Norway every winter. The deployment time is relatively short. But these forces are included in SACLANT's reserves, and they could be needed by him for protection of his island commands.

- The Canadian Air Sea Transportable Brigade Group is the only reinforcements which has been exclusively dedicated to North Norway. The deployment time has now been reduced to 20 days. Still, we believe this is too long to provide the political and military leadership with adequate flexibility.

Lastly, there is also an option of deployment of a US MAB to North Norway. I will say more about this later.

46. Allied
air
reinforce-
ments

Allied air reinforcements are also most important. At the present stage, planned allied air reinforcements for North Norway consist mainly of AMF(A)'s 4 associated squadrons, and 2 Canadian squadrons. SACEUR's new RRP will include allocated air reinforcements which will exploit the full capacity of the military airfields in North Norway, and also be better tailored to the tasks which are considered to be of primary importance, i e air defence and antishipping.

47. Concept of
maritime ops

The increased Soviet naval and air capabilities raised the question whether allied naval forces will be committed to the Norwegian Sea at the opening stage of a conflict. We are, for obvious reasons, dependent upon NATO conducting a forward defence in the Norwegian Sea, and we think that we are in a geographical position to support such a strategy. First of all by holding our airfields and maintaining their operational integrity.

This is particularly important if NATO is to exploit the geographical advantages of Norwegian airfileds for

achieving control of the NORTH ATLANTIC sea routes.

As you have seen, the reinforcement options include some uncertainties as to availability and deployment time. In view of this, Norway and the United States in 1980 concluded an agreement to preposition equipment and supplies for a Marine Amphibious Brigade in Trøndelag. Norway, is by the same agreement committed to preposition an extra set of equipment for one more Norwegian reinforcement brigade in North Norway. This arrangement was based on consideration of several factors. The time-element is vital, and it will be quicker to deploy a Norwegian brigade to North Norway than an allied. It is also believed that it will be easier to get political decision to request and to commit - US reinforcements to Trøndelag than to North Situation in a crisis situation. When implemented, the new arrangement will constitute a significant contribution to deterrence and defend of our area.

I would also like to point out that in order to achieve the desired deterrent effect, it is essential that the allied will and capability of conducting a forward defence in the Norwegian Sea and to reinforce North Norway is demonstrated through exercises in peacetime. Through allied air, naval and ground exercises in the area, the deterrent effect of the common defences is strengthened and it will become much more unlikely that it will ever be necessary to commit allied forces to the area in a wartime situation.

48. F-15, Bodø

49. Ships
Saipan

50. Marine-
soldat

COMMON
shield

Conclusion

In conclusion, let me state that we have been favoured with

a relatively stable and peaceful situation in the North throughout the period of NATO's existence. The combined effects of national and allied efforts have so far been adequate to the requirements for deterrence.

Over the recent years there have however occurred changes in the situation, particularly by the increased Soviet naval and air capabilities. In view of the changes in the situation the Norwegian authorities are making an effort to strengthen the defences in the coming years. National efforts alone will however not be sufficient to secure deterrence and defence in the North. We are also dependent upon the greater Allied nations maintaining their capability to conduct a forward defence in the Norwegian Sea and to bring in reinforcements to North Norway at an early stage of a crisis, and also after a conflict has broken out. We also believe that if we can hold the Northern flank, it will contribute to the defence of all the NATO nations.

This concludes my presentation. I would be very happy to try to answer any of your questions or comments.

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