

CONSEIL DE L'ATLANTIQUE NORD
NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL

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EXEMPLAIRE
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N A T O C O N F I D E N T I A L

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH
19th February, 1979

ACTION SHEET
AC/119-R(79)17

POLITICAL COMMITTEE

Meeting held at the NATO Headquarters, 1110 Brussels,
on Tuesday, 13th February, 1979 at 10:30 a.m.

I. EAST-WEST VISITS

The COMMITTEE:

- (1) noted that the Norwegian Foreign Minister would visit Romania from 5th to 8th March, 1979;
- (2) noted a contribution by the Netherlands Representative reporting Gromyko's reactions to the Spanish Foreign Minister's reference to possible Spanish entry into NATO during his recent visit to the Soviet Union.

II. SOVIET UNION

The COMMITTEE:

- (1) noted a contribution by the Canadian Representative providing information on the recent trial and sentencing of the alleged authors of the explosions which had taken place in the Moscow underground;
- (2) noted a contribution by the German Delegation requesting information from other delegations on the activities of the Soviet Committee for European Security, Moscow.

III. VISIT OF THE ROMANIAN FOREIGN MINISTER TO THE SOVIET UNION

The COMMITTEE:

- (1) noted a contribution by the French Representative commenting on the implications of this visit;

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- (2) noted a contribution by the United Kingdom Representative reporting that the Soviet Embassy in Bucharest was trying to play down the differences which had emerged between Romania and the Soviet Union during the visit;
- (3) noted contributions by the Canadian and German Representatives commenting on the visit.

IV. BULGARIA

The COMMITTEE:

was informed by the French Representative of rumours circulating among Western military attachés in Sofia and Bucharest that two Soviet-Bulgarian manoeuvres would be held in Bulgaria involving two Soviet armoured divisions.

V. INTERNATIONAL THEORETICAL CONFERENCE OF COMMUNIST PARTIES - SOFIA - 12TH/15TH DECEMBER, 1978

The COMMITTEE:

noted a contribution on this subject by the United Kingdom Delegation.

VI. MEETING OF THE WARSAW PACT POLITICAL CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

The COMMITTEE:

agreed to begin its consideration of ISD/213 at the next meeting.

VII. CALENDAR OF WARSAW PACT EVENTS IN 1979

The COMMITTEE:

noted a contribution on this subject by the United Kingdom Delegation.

VIII. PRESIDENT BREZHNEV'S LETTERS ON THE SALE OF ARMS
AND TECHNOLOGY TO CHINA

The COMMITTEE:

was informed by the Italian Representative of the comments which his Foreign Minister had given to Gromyko, during the latter's visit to Rome in January, on the two letters which President Brezhnev had sent to President Andreotti in November and December 1978.

IX. VISIT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN DENG XIAOPING TO THE UNITED STATES

The COMMITTEE:

noted that the Canadian Delegation would appreciate receiving assessments by other delegations of Soviet reactions to this visit.

X. CHINA

The COMMITTEE:

noted a contribution by the Turkish Representative providing an assessment by his Embassy in Peking of the motives behind the recent Chinese decision to return to the national bourgeoisie the bank accounts and personal effects confiscated during the Cultural Revolution.

XI. VIETNAMESE INVASION OF CAMBODIA AND SINO-VIETNAMESE
RELATIONS

The COMMITTEE:

- (1) noted a contribution by the United Kingdom Delegation presenting the Soviet attitude to the Vietnamese invasion of Cambodia;
- (2) noted a further contribution by the United Kingdom Delegation reporting on the briefing given by the Vietnamese Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs to Western Ambassadors in Hanoi on 11th February;

- (3) had its attention drawn by the United Kingdom Representative to an assessment of Sino-Vietnamese relations which his Delegation had circulated through the Situation Centre as AS(79)017;
- (4) noted a contribution by the Canadian Representative commenting on the Chinese military build-up on the border with Vietnam;
- (5) noted contributions by the Italian and Netherlands Representatives reporting Japanese fears of Chinese military intervention in the conflict.

XII. YUGOSLAVIA

The COMMITTEE:

noted a contribution by the United Kingdom Representative reporting Yugoslav press treatment of the dispute with Bulgaria over the Macedonian issue.

XIII. MALTA

The COMMITTEE:

noted that the Turkish Authorities would welcome the views of their Allies as to how they should react to any invitation from the Maltese to send a high-level delegation to the celebrations, planned in Malta on 31st March, of the removal of foreign bases from the island.

XIV. KOREA

The COMMITTEE:

had its attention drawn by the United Kingdom Representative to an assessment of relations between North and South Korea, which his Delegation had circulated through the Situation Centre as AS(79)017.

XV. AFGHANISTAN

The COMMITTEE:

had an exchange of views on the situation in Afghanistan during which contributions were made by the Canadian, German, Italian, Netherlands, United Kingdom and United States Delegations.

XVI. IRAN

The COMMITTEE:

invited delegations having comments on the situation in Iran based on first impressions to provide these at the next meeting under Item I(c).

XVII. INDIA

The COMMITTEE:

noted a contribution by the United Kingdom Representative reporting that Kosygin would visit India in March and that during the course of his current visit to China, the Indian Foreign Minister was likely to be put under pressure to take sides in the conflict between Vietnam and Cambodia.

XVIII. RELATIONS BETWEEN CUBA AND ANGOLA

The COMMITTEE:

noted a contribution by the Canadian Delegation providing information on President Neto's visit to Cuba from 23rd to 28th January.

XIX. EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON CSCE MATTERS INCLUDING CBMs AND CERTAIN ASPECTS OF SECURITY AND DISARMAMENT

(a) Preparations for the Madrid Meeting

The COMMITTEE:

agreed to resume discussion at the next meeting on the proposal that the meeting with experts be held on 25th April.

(b) CBMs

The COMMITTEE:

- (1) was informed by the German Representative that of the East European countries, only the Soviet Union had sent observers to Exercise CERTAIN SENTINEL but that most Allied countries, as well as Finland, Switzerland, Sweden, Austria, Spain and Yugoslavia, had also done so;
- (2) requested delegations to inform the International Secretariat of any further amendments or additions to the programme of 1979 Allied manoeuvres in POLADS(79)11, to enable a revised version to be circulated;
- (3) had circulated to it by the United States Delegation the notification text for Exercise KNACKNUSS, which his Authorities had received from the Swiss Embassy in Washington;
- (4) noted amendments suggested by the Belgian Representative to the French text of the proposed Press Release for Exercise DETERRENT FORCE 1/79 in POLADS(79)6;
- (5) agreed to advance the deadline for the political clearance of this Press Release to close of business on Monday, 19th February.

XX. ARMS CONTROL AND DISARMAMENT ISSUES

(a) Swedish Proposal for UN Study on Nuclear Weapons

The COMMITTEE:

- (1) was informed by the Canadian, German, Netherlands and United Kingdom Representatives of the attitude of their Authorities with regard to the Swedish proposal and to participation in any expert group that might be established;
- (2) agreed to revert to this subject at the next meeting.

(b) Disarmament Resolutions Adopted by the 1978 UNGA

The COMMITTEE:

- (1) noted some procedural suggestions by the United Kingdom Representative for undertaking an examination of selected UNGA disarmament resolutions;
- (2) had an exchange of views on the specific resolutions which the Committee might study, with particular reference to the paper circulated by the United Kingdom Representative on 7th February;
- (3) noted that the Military Committee would appreciate being tasked by the Council as early as possible to provide a military assessment of the resolutions in question;
- (4) heard reactions by the Canadian Representative to the assessment provided by the Netherlands Representative at the last meeting of the disarmament debate which had taken place in the United Nations First Committee;
- (5) agreed to revert to this subject at the next meeting.

(c) Committee on Disarmament

The COMMITTEE:

had circulated to it by the German Delegation the text of the statement made by State Secretary Van Well at the Opening Session of the Committee on Disarmament.

(d) Romanian Proposal on Disarmament

The COMMITTEE:

- (1) was informed by the Canadian Representative of the comments which his Authorities had made to the Romanian Ambassador in Ottawa when the latter handed over the Romanian Appeal, and noted the reactions of the Canadian Authorities to the Romanian proposal for the establishment of a demilitarized zone in Central Europe;

- (2) noted that the Romanian Appeal had also been communicated to Norway, but not to the Netherlands;
 - (3) heard comments by the Turkish Representative on the possible motives behind the Romanian proposals;
 - (4) noted a contribution by the Italian Representative providing the reactions of his Authorities to the Romanian proposals and reporting on démarches by the Romanians in this connection.
- (e) Semi-Annual Meeting with Disarmament Experts

The COMMITTEE:

- (1) noted that the proposed dates of 5th and 6th April had been agreed by the silence procedure;
- (2) requested delegations to put forward suggestions for the Agenda at the meeting on 27th February.

XI. 1979 WORK PROGRAMME

The COMMITTEE:

deferred consideration of this Item to its next meeting.

XII. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, 20th February at 3 p.m.

NATO,
1110 Brussels.