

CONSEIL DE L'ATLANTIQUE NORD
NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL

MF

EXEMPLAIRE

N° 104

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6th May, 1959

NATO CONFIDENTIAL
SUMMARY RECORD
AC/119-R(59)16

Included Corr. 14.5.59

COMMITTEE OF POLITICAL ADVISERS

Meeting held on Tuesday, 5th May, 1959

ACTION SHEET

I. WARSAW CONFERENCE

After an exchange of views, the COMMITTEE:

noted the following salient points:

- the Soviet Bloc had apparently not wished to give undue prominence to the Warsaw Conference as was shown by the small amount of space devoted to it in the Communist press;
- this moderation might indicate that the Soviets considered the Geneva Conference to be merely preparatory to a summit conference;
- the participants might have desired to give an impression of lessened tension, as demonstrated by the cordial welcome extended to the Western diplomats present at the reception with which the conference closed and the avoidance of certain subjects in the final press release (e.g. any reference to a separate peace treaty with East Germany).

II. SPEECH DELIVERED BY KHRUSHCHEV AT LEIPZIG

Reference: AC/119-WP(59)42

Note by the French Delegation

AC/119-WP(59)45

Note by the German Delegation

After an exchange of views, the COMMITTEE:

- (1) stressed the importance of the Leipzig speech as an apparently very frank statement of the long-term aims of Soviet policy and as further evidence of the confidence of the Soviet leaders;

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- (2) considered, generally speaking, that the question of frontiers had probably been dealt with at some length because it was the cause of some uneasiness in Eastern Germany, and should not be interpreted as foreshadowing any increased political and economic integration of the satellite countries.

III. THE INTERNAL SITUATION IN THE USSR

Reference: AC/119-R(59)15, Item III(3) and III(2)

The COMMITTEE:

- (1) noted, as regards the changes that had occurred in the leadership of the various Soviet Republics:
- that in the opinion of the United States Delegation, they did not represent a true "purge", for they only affected a small number of comparatively unimportant people;
 - that, after three years without changes, the intention was probably to make room for younger and more enterprising elements at a time when the policy of de-centralisation was laying greater responsibility on local Party leaders;
 - that, in the opinion of the Netherlands Delegation, to the explanations given above - should be added - at least in the case of certain republics - the desire to combat a particular form of nationalism;
- (2) noted the submission by the Netherlands Delegation of a document giving the names of local leaders who had been replaced (AC/119-WP(59)50, to be circulated);
- (3) noted that the United States and German Delegations doubted the reliability of the rumour that the supreme Soviet would be meeting on 20th May to appoint Mr. Khrushchev as the successor to Marshal Vorochilov.

IV. RELATIONS BETWEEN YUGOSLAVIA AND THE SOVIET BLOC

After an exchange of views, the COMMITTEE:

noted that the signs of some lessening of tension between certain Soviet Bloc countries and Yugoslavia did not seem to indicate a turning-point in the relations between these countries and Yugoslavia.

V. THE SATELLITE COUNTRIES AND FRANCE

The COMMITTEE:

- (1) noted that Czechoslovakia, as a signatory of the Austrian Treaty had, on the 27th April, sent France a note protesting against a demonstration recently organized in Austria under the title of "Sudeten Day";
- (2) noted that the Hungarian Government had requested the French Government to approve the appointment as Hungarian Minister to Paris of Mr. Joseph Vincze.

VI. BULGARIA

The COMMITTEE:

- (1) noted that in the opinion of the Italian Delegation, the recent administrative elections in Bulgaria had turned to the advantage of the advocates of the acceleration of the 5-year plan;
- (2) took note of the submission by the Greek Delegation of a document (AC/119-WP(59)49) on the role of Bulgaria in the Middle East and of the submission by the Turkish Delegation of a document (to be circulated as AC/119-WP(59)51) on the circumstances in which the Bulgarian note protesting against a recent United States-Turkish agreement and criticising Turkey's membership of NATO, had been rejected by Turkey and subsequently published by the Bulgarians;
- (3) noted that in the opinion of these delegations and of the Italian Delegation, it would be desirable for the Committee to study the roles attributed to satellite countries as instruments of Soviet foreign policy.

VII. EAST/WEST CONTACTS

The COMMITTEE:

took note of a statement by the Danish Delegation on the visit to Gdynia on 21st - 25th May of three small Danish warships and to Copenhagen from 22nd - 26th May of three Polish vessels.

VIII. ISSUE OF VISAS TO EAST GERMAN NATIONALS

Reference: AC/119-R(59)15, Item II(1)

The COMMITTEE:

- (1) took note of the submission of a United States memorandum on this question (to be circulated under reference AC/119-WP(59)52);
- (2) noted that the Committee had already dealt with a similar question in 1958 (see AC/119-R(58)12, 13 and 14), that Eastern Germany must not be allowed to by-pass the tripartite traffic office and that care must also be taken to avoid any action enabling it to plead de facto recognition;
- (3) agreed to resume consideration of this question at the next meeting, and to this end, invited delegations to make known their position.

IX. SETTING-UP OF A BRUSSELS OFFICE OF "RADIO FREE EUROPE"

The COMMITTEE:

- (1) noted the submission by the Belgian Delegation of a memorandum (to be circulated under Reference AC/119-WP(59)53) regarding a protest by the Soviet Embassy on 20th April concerning the setting-up in Brussels of a "Benelux Office of Radio Free Europe".
- (2) invited the delegations in whose countries such offices existed to inform the Committee whether similar steps had been taken by the Soviet authorities and what replies had been given.

X. WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS AND INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY

The COMMITTEE:

- (1) took note of a United States memorandum regarding the attitude to be adopted by NATO member countries towards an application by the World Federation of Trade Unions for admission in a consultative capacity to the International Atomic Energy Agency, to be considered on 12th May by a committee of that international organization;
- (2) invited delegations to inform the United States Delegation direct - since time was short -- of their position in this matter.

XI. THE SITUATION IN IRAQ

The COMMITTEE:

- (1) noted, after an exchange of views, the following salient points:

- over 200 officers (including 30 brigadiers) had been obliged to leave the Iraqi army (or had been arrested) since the Mosul affair, making a total, since last July, of 500 officers out of 3,000;
 - it was an open question whether the army - which, moreover, had probably been infiltrated by the Communists - was still in a position to play a decisive political role;
 - increasingly strong pressure was being brought to bear on the Government to admit Communists;
 - outside Bagdhad, the local government representatives dared not oppose the wishes of the local Communists;
 - certain Western firms found that it was becoming increasingly difficult, if not dangerous, to pursue their activities, owing to the unrest fomented among their staff;
 - the United States and Italian Delegations, supported by the Turkish Delegation, were of the opinion that Western diplomatic missions in Iraq should maintain and even increase their contacts with Kassem in order not to give him the impression that they regard him as lost to the Western world;
- (2) took note of a statement by the United Kingdom Representative on the visit of Lord Monckton, Chairman of the IPC to Iraq, and of the submission by the same delegation of a memorandum regarding the statements by the Iraqi Minister for Economic Affairs on the subject of oil policy (to be circulated under Reference AC/119-WP(59)54).

XII. IRAN

The COMMITTEE:

- (1) took note of a statement by the French Delegation concluding that every effort must be made to strengthen the position of the Shah of Iran;
- (2) invited delegations to follow developments in Iran very closely and to keep the Committee informed of the results of the Shah's visits to a number of European capitals.

XIII. THE CAIRO OIL CONFERENCE

The COMMITTEE:

- (1) took note of the submission of a memorandum by the Canadian Delegation on the aforementioned Conference (AC/119-WP(59)36/1);
- (2) invited member countries to provide the Secretariat as soon as possible with their appraisal of this Conference.

XIV. EGYPT

The COMMITTEE:

- (1) took note of a statement by the United Kingdom Delegation on the agreement reached on 26th April regarding the United Kingdom mission to Egypt;
- (2) took note of a statement by the Italian Representative on the results obtained by an Italian trade mission which had visited Cairo to pave the way for a resumption of trade relations between the two countries, and on the impression made on the head of the mission by an interview with Colonel Nasser, who had declared himself desirous of shaking off Soviet economic domination;
- (3) took note of a statement by the Danish Representative, who drew the attention of the Committee to an interview granted by Nasser to an Indian journalist, published in the "Journal de l'Egypte" of 18th April.

XV. TIBET

The COMMITTEE:

noted the submission by the United Kingdom Delegation of a study on the Dalai-Lama.

XVI. THE SITUATION IN GUINEA

The COMMITTEE:

- (1) took note of a statement by the German Delegation on Communist infiltration in Guinea and on the request for a delivery of rice made by the Guinea authorities, a request which, in the opinion of the Federal authorities, might be studied in NATO in the same manner as the problem of aid to the Sudan;
- (2) noted that the French Delegation would make a statement on this question at the next meeting.

XVII. NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, 12th May at 10.30 a.m.

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Palais de Chaillot,
Paris, XVIe.