

CONSEIL DE L'ATLANTIQUE NORD
NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL

EXEMPLAIRE
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NATO CONFIDENTIAL
ACTION SHEET
AC/119-R(61)16

COMMITTEE OF POLITICAL ADVISERS

Meeting held on 16th May, 1961

ACTION SHEET

I. CIVIL AVIATION RELATIONS WITH COMMUNIST BLOC COUNTRIES

(a) Policy

The COMMITTEE:

- (1) agreed to postpone discussion of questions of principle regarding civil aviation relations with Communist Bloc countries until delegations had been able to consult informally regarding the proposal made by the Foreign Ministers of Denmark and the Netherlands at the Ministerial Meeting in Oslo that there should be a NATO study of "ways and means of arriving at a desirable liberalisation in the field of commercial aviation"(1);
- (2) agreed, nonetheless, to exchange at the earliest possible moment information on potentially dangerous services, without prejudice, however, to any action governments might feel compelled to take.

(b) Danish reply to the Czech Government

The COMMITTEE:

noted that the Danish Government, in a note dated 10th May, 1961, had informed the Czech authorities that Czech aircraft would be allowed to overfly Denmark en route to Havana and return: the

(1) C-VR(61)19, page 5

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substance of the Czech request had been communicated to the Committee in a note by the Danish Delegation (AC/119-WP(61)14/1), and on 28th March the Danish Representative had informed the Committee that his authorities could not see any legal possibility of refusing the request; they were accordingly inclined to feel that permission would have to be granted eventually(1);

II. DISCUSSIONS AMONG AFRICAN COUNTRIES REGARDING CIVIL AVIATION POLICY

The COMMITTEE:

noted the reference made by the French Representative to the discussions which took place recently among African states on the possibility of their adopting a common policy in the field of civil aviation.

III. UNITED STATES/USSR CIVIL AVIATION NEGOTIATIONS

The COMMITTEE:

(1) heard a statement by the United States Representative on the US/USSR negotiations for an air agreement providing for reciprocal direct air flights between the United States and the Soviet Union;

(2) expressed the hope that the United States Delegation might circulate a note on this subject.

IV. POSSIBLE ECONOMIC COUNTER-MEASURES

The COMMITTEE:

(1) had before them a draft report on this subject(2), based on national comments on the Four-Power Working Group's study(3);

(2) invited the Chairman to have a revised draft circulated, taking account of the comments submitted by delegations on the International Secretariat's draft.

- { 1 } AC/119-R(61)12, Item I(b)(1)
 { 2 } POLADS(61)16
 { 3 } AC/119-WP(60)95

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V. LEIPZIG FAIR, AUTUMN 1961

The COMMITTEE:

- (1) noted the Turkish Representative's enquiry whether Chambers of Commerce or private firms in member countries had been invited to participate at the Leipzig Fair next autumn; the Union of Chambers of Commerce in Turkey had received an invitation and it was their intention to participate on a private basis;
- (2) following an exchange of views, agreed that there could be no objection in principle to participation; however, the possibility of a crisis being precipitated by the Soviet-occupied Zone of Germany or by the USSR should be borne in mind; it would be unfortunate if firms got so deeply involved that it would be difficult for them to withdraw, if necessary, at the last moment.

VI. SOVIET PROTESTS

(a) Soviet note to the Belgian and Netherlands Governments on Travel Restrictions

The COMMITTEE:

- (1) noted that the USSR had protested recently to the Belgian and Netherlands Governments on the restrictions imposed on travel by members of their Embassies in those countries: the Soviet contention was that such action was discriminatory contrary to international usage and to the provisions of the United Nations Convention recently negotiated in Vienna;
- (2) recognised the falsity of the Soviet charge;
- (3) agreed to enquiry whether similar representations had been made elsewhere.

(b) Soviet protest to the Netherlands regarding alleged attacks on a Russian whaling ship

The COMMITTEE:

heard a statement by the Netherlands Representative regarding the Soviet protest on this subject made on 14th May, 1961: in a statement issued the previous day the Netherlands Ministry of Defence had denied the allegations.

VII. UNITED KINGDOM NOTE TO BULGARIA

The COMMITTEE:

expressed the hope that the United Kingdom Representative might circulate the text of the note delivered recently by his authorities to the Bulgarian Government asking for assurance that the Government was in a position to safeguard the United Kingdom mission in Sophia.

VIII. MEETING OF HEADS OF GOVERNMENT OF WARSAW PACT COUNTRIES

The COMMITTEE:

- (1) heard statements by the Greek, Italian and United States Representatives on this meeting;
- (2) noted that rumours had reached the Greek Government to the effect that withdrawal of Soviet troops from Warsaw Pact countries had been discussed; could these rumours be confirmed?

IX. UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS AND IMMUNITIES, VIENNA

In an exchange of views on the outcome of the Vienna Conference, the COMMITTEE:

- (1) noted that some governments had certain hesitations about ratifying the Convention;
- (2) noted the Chairman's suggestion that it would be useful if governments who had reservations would make them known to the Committee, and at the same time say what action they proposed to take.

X. 4TH INTERNATIONAL CIVIL DEFENCE CONFERENCE, MONTREUX, OCTOBER, 1961

The COMMITTEE:

- (1) learned that the German, Netherlands, Portuguese and Turkish authorities had not received an invitation to this conference, reference to which was made in a note by the French Delegation (AC/119-WP(61)29);

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- (2) noted that, with the exception of the Belgian, Canadian, Greek and Italian Delegations, which were without information, authorities of other Governments had either refused the invitation, let it go unanswered, or intended to refuse it.

XI. FORCED WITHDRAWAL OF UNITED KINGDOM PROTECTION OF NETHERLANDS INTERESTS IN INDONESIA

The COMMITTEE:

- (1) expressed regret at the intransigence of the Indonesian Government, as revealed in its reply to the United Kingdom note of 24th April, 1961;
- (2) noted that it was the intention of the French Government to act upon the suggestions made by the Netherlands Delegation, both as regards raising this question with Indonesian authorities and offering assistance to Dutch nationals.

XII. CUBA

(a) Recent Developments

The COMMITTEE;

- (1) heard a statement by the United States Representative on the appalling treatment to which political prisoners in Cuba were being subjected: these were facts which the United States would appreciate their allies reflecting in contacts with other Governments;
- (2) noted that the United States was consulting with other members of the Organization of American States with a view to agreeing upon action designed to isolate the Castro regime.

(b) Message to Governments from the President and Prime Minister of Cuba

The COMMITTEE:

generally agreed that this message, reference to which had been made by the Italian Delegation in the Council, should go unanswered and that the Chairman should inform the Council orally of their views.

XIII. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, 24th May, 1961, at 3.15 p.m.

OTAN/NATO,
Paris, XVIc.