

CONSEIL DE L'ATLANTIQUE NORD  
NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL

EXEMPLAIRE 166  
COPY

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

ORIGINAL: FRENCH  
17th February, 1978

ACTION SHEET  
AC/119-R(78)21

POLITICAL COMMITTEE

Meeting held on Tuesday 14th February, 1978 at 10.30 a.m.

ACTION SHEET

I. EAST-WEST VISITS

The COMMITTEE was informed:

- (1) by the Canadian Representative
  - (i) of the cancellation of the visit to the Soviet Union by Mr. D. Jamieson, Secretary of State for External Affairs, which had been scheduled to take place from 15th to 19th March, 1978;
  - (ii) that a report on Mr. Jamieson's recent visit to China would be made to the Council;
- (2) by the United Kingdom Representative of the projected visit to Romania, Bulgaria and Poland by the United Kingdom Secretary of State for Trade (20th February- 3rd March, 1978);
- (3) by the German Representative that German-Polish talks on disarmament would take place in Warsaw on 3rd March.

II. GREEK-ALBANIAN TALKS

The COMMITTEE:

was informed by the Greek Representative of the substance of recent talks between the Greek and CPR Ambassadors in Tirana on the current differences of views between Albania and China; noted, in particular, that apparently these differences were not ideological in nature but stemmed from the Chinese leadership's refusal to grant the Albanians additional economic aid.

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

III. DISSENSION IN THE RULING PARTIES IN EASTERN EUROPE

The COMMITTEE:

- (1) noted a report by the Canadian Representative on rumours regarding possible differences of opinion in the Czechoslovak party leadership;
- (2) also heard comments by the Italian Representative on the reported formation of an opposition group among SED officials in the GDR and noted the additional information contributed by the German Representative on this subject.

IV. SOVIET UNION

The COMMITTEE received information from the Canadian Representative on:

- (1) the official reason given for the cancellation of the visit to the USSR by the Danish Foreign Minister;
- (2) the passing of a resolution by the Canadian House of Commons concerning Anatole Shtsharansky's failure to obtain immigrant status.

V. ANTI-HEGEMONISM IN THE CPR'S FOREIGN POLICY

The COMMITTEE:

noted a report by the German Representative on the "anti-hegemonist" policy which the People's Republic of China had been following for more than five years and its repercussions on the development of relations between China, Japan and the Soviet Union.

VI. FATE OF INDO-CHINESE REFUGEES

Reference: Report by the United States Delegation circulated on 13th December, 1977

The COMMITTEE:

noted a contribution by the German Representative explaining the Federal Authorities' attitude to this problem.

VII. SITUATION IN THE HORN OF AFRICA

The COMMITTEE:

- (1) was briefed by the Italian Representative on the meeting of Arab country representatives called by the Somali Foreign Minister, on the nature of the requests made to them, and on Somalia's intention to request an extraordinary meeting of the Arab League and the latter's intervention in its conflict with Ethiopia;
- (2) took note of a statement by the United States Representative on the accusations of complicity levelled against NATO because of the aid some of its members had allegedly given Somalia; further noted his clarifications, based on recent statements by Secretary of State Vance on the basic United States position with respect to the Somali-Ethiopian conflict; and likewise noted the impact which the present situation in the Horn of Africa was having on current talks with the Soviet Union regarding the Indian Ocean;
- (3) noted comments by the Canadian Representative on the desirability for European countries of keeping up their contacts with Ethiopia whilst at the same time refusing to sell arms to either belligerent and noted, in this connection, that Canada had signed a contract with Ethiopia for the supply of a hydro-electric power station.

VIII. RHODESIA

The COMMITTEE:

heard an oral report by the United Kingdom Representative on the substance and the results of the talks which had taken place in Malta from 30th January to 1st February between the parties concerned in the settlement of the Rhodesian question.

IX. ANGOLA

The COMMITTEE:

was informed by the German Representative that for the first time, in an article published in Izvestia on 2nd February, the USSR had apparently acknowledged the existence of major subversive movements directed against the present régime in Luanda.

X. EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON CSCE IMPLEMENTATION INCLUDING CMBs AND CERTAIN ASPECTS OF SECURITY AND DISARMAMENT

(a) Soviet proposal on the restriction of military manoeuvres

The COMMITTEE:

- (1) undertook a round-the-table consultation to determine delegations' views on the advisability of requesting the Military Committee, under a specific mandate from the Council to review further, certain aspects of the study MCM-2-78 with a view to possible negotiations in Belgrade or elsewhere on the Soviet proposal;
- (2) noted that, as at previous meetings, this proposal did not meet with the unanimous agreement of its members, the majority of whom considered that, given the rate of progress at Belgrade, this question was not an urgent one and that a decision could be taken later in the light of subsequent developments at the Conference;
- (3) agreed to continue the discussion at the next meeting.

(b) Programme of Allied manoeuvres in 1978 - notification of manoeuvres and invitations to observers

The COMMITTEE:

- (1) noted the preliminary information provided by the United States and German Representatives and noted that the International Staff would circulate a draft programme as soon as it had sufficient data;
- (2) noted an oral statement by the Norwegian Representative on the reaction of the Warsaw Pact, neutral and Allied countries to the Norwegian Authorities' invitations to attend exercise ARCTIC EXPRESS.

XI. SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING WITH DISARMAMENT EXPERTS: PREPARATION OF AGENDA

Reference: ISD/179

The COMMITTEE:

- (1) held a further discussion on the draft Agenda and noted comments by the Italian and German Representatives on Item VII and by the Canadian Representative on Item III;

- (2) agreed, at the request of the United States and French Representatives who were awaiting instructions from their capitals, to retain this item on the Agenda for at least two more meetings.

III. COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES IN 1978

The COMMITTEE:

- (1) on the basis of an informal Note by the Acting Chairman, held a detailed exchange of views on this subject;
- (2) noted reactions to the list of topics proposed in the above-mentioned Note and, in particular, a suggestion that a detailed evaluation should be made of the results of the implementation of the confidence-building measures provided for in the CSCE Final Act, with special reference to their rôle and utility in the improvement of East-West relations;
- (3) agreed to continue the discussion at the next meeting on the basis of a draft Note to be circulated by the International Staff(1).

IIII. LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE

The COMMITTEE:

- (1) noted a statement by the Chairman drawing attention to the substance of PO/78/12 and pointing out that as the Council might be holding consultations on these questions as early as March, it would probably be useful for the Committee to hold exchanges of views on the subject as soon as possible;
- (2) agreed to place this item on the Agenda for the next meeting.

IV. RATIFICATION OF THE CONVENTION ON THE PROHIBITION OF MILITARY USE OF ENVIRONMENTAL MODIFICATION TECHNIQUES

The COMMITTEE:

noted a statement by the Italian Representative on the time required for the ratification procedure instituted by his country.

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(1) ISD/180 of 16th February, 1978.

IV. NEW SOVIET REGULATIONS ON TRAVEL BY ALLIED COUNTRY  
DIPLOMATS ACCREDITED TO THE USSR

Reference: United States paper circulated on 7th February, 1978

The COMMITTEE:

- (1) held an exchange of views on this subject and noted that, as things stood, there was no indication of any relaxation in the Soviet attitude to diplomats;
- (2) noted the details given by the French Representative on travel by diplomats accredited to Moscow in the former Baltic States, the USSR's annexation of which had never been recognized by France;
- (3) also noted the information provided by the Turkish, Belgian and German Representatives on the above subject, as well as the United Kingdom Representative's view that it might be helpful if the International Staff prepared a synopsis of the data available on this matter.

V. NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, 21st February, 1978 at 10.30 a.m.

NATO,  
1110 Brussels.