

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

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31st January, 1979

ACTION SHEET
AC/119-R(79)12

POLITICAL COMMITTEE

Meeting held at the NATO Headquarters, 1110 Brussels,
on Tuesday, 30th January, 1979 at 10.30 a.m.

I. SOVIET UNION

The COMMITTEE:

- (1) noted a contribution by the Canadian Delegation on "Soviet Foreign Policy: Balance Sheet";
- (2) noted a contribution by the Canadian Representative commenting on the rapid ascendancy of Chernenko in the Soviet hierarchy;
- (3) had its attention drawn by the German Representative to a series of Soviet newspaper articles on NATO and its integrated command structure.

II. PRESIDENT BREZHNEV'S VISIT TO BULGARIA

The COMMITTEE:

- (1) noted a contribution by the Turkish Representative providing information on this visit which had been given to his Ambassador in Prague by a Romanian Embassy official on 23rd January;
- (2) noted a contribution by the United States Representative commenting on the objectives of Brezhnev's visit.

III. SOVIET/ROMANIAN RELATIONS

The COMMITTEE:

- (1) noted a contribution by the United States Delegation on the continuing polemics between the Soviet Union and Romania;

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- (2) noted a contribution by the Canadian Representative reporting that on 25th January the Soviet Ambassador in Bucharest had informed Ceausescu of the Soviet desire for improved relations with Romania.

IV. POLAND

The COMMITTEE:

noted a contribution by the United States Delegation on Polish defence expenditures.

V. YUGOSLAVIA

The COMMITTEE:

- (1) noted a contribution by the United States Delegation on the warming trend in Yugoslav/Soviet relations;
- (2) noted a contribution by the United Kingdom Representative on the current state of Yugoslav/Soviet relations, including the Soviet invitation to Tito to visit the Soviet Union, differences of view over the situation in Cambodia and reports in the Yugoslav and Soviet press on relations between the two countries;
- (3) noted a contribution by the Italian Representative on differences of view between Yugoslavia and the Soviet Union;
- (4) noted a contribution by the Netherlands Representative on Yugoslavia's relations with Bulgaria.

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

The COMMITTEE:

- (1) was informed by the United Kingdom Representative that his Prime Minister had received two letters from Mr. Brezhnev on 18th November and 27th December and had sent a firm but moderate reply on 12th January;
- (2) noted that the United Kingdom and French Authorities did not consider it useful for a detailed comparison to be made of the texts of Mr. Brezhnev's letters as suggested by the Belgian Representative at the last meeting.

VII. CHINA

The COMMITTEE:

had its attention drawn by the United Kingdom Representative to the assessment of political and economic developments in China which his Delegation had circulated through the Situation Centre as AS(79)009.

VIII. IRAN

The COMMITTEE:

- (1) noted a contribution by the Belgian Representative referring to the possibility of the Soviet Union invoking the 1946 Soviet-Iranian Treaty as a pretext for intervention in Iran;
- (2) noted a contribution by the Canadian Representative reporting the views of the Iranian Ambassador in Moscow on the Soviet attitude towards the situation in Iran.

IX. AFGHANISTAN

The COMMITTEE:

was informed by the Greek Representative that Afghanistan and Hungary had agreed to establish full diplomatic relations.

X. MALTA

The COMMITTEE:

noted a contribution by the United States Representative reporting on the discussions which had taken place during the recent visit of two Soviet Delegations to Malta.

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

(a) Preparations for the Experts' Meeting in Valletta

The COMMITTEE:

- (1) noted that, in the view of the French Authorities, the informal meeting which the Soviet Union had proposed should be held in Valletta on 12th February to discuss procedural matters, would be useful provided it were convened by the host country, took place outside the framework of the Valletta meeting and did not establish a precedent;

- (2) heard a statement by the French Representative outlining his Authorities' views on the Valletta meeting and reporting the Soviet position as it had emerged from recent conversations between Soviet diplomats and French Embassy officials in Moscow;
 - (3) received information from the German Representative regarding Czechoslovak views on the Valletta meeting;
 - (4) noted a contribution by the United States Representative reporting the attitudes of the Soviet Union, Egypt, Syria and Morocco with regard to the Valletta meeting;
 - (5) was informed by the Canadian Representative that according to Mr. Naudi the United Nations Secretary General would send a representative to the opening session of the Valletta meeting;
- (b) Exercises

The COMMITTEE:

- (1) was informed by the Belgian Representative that the total number of troops participating in exercise DISPLAY DETERMINATION 1979 would be 18,000;
 - (2) noted that the Norwegian Representative would welcome comments on the draft notification text for exercise COLD WINTER which he had circulated on 25th January;
- (c) CBMs Study

The COMMITTEE:

noted that the next meeting of the Drafting Group would take place on Thursday, 1st February at 3 p.m.

XII. ARMS CONTROL AND DISARMAMENT ISSUES

- (a) Agenda for the Experts' Meeting on Conventional Weapons - 21st and 22nd February

The COMMITTEE:

- (1) reviewed the draft Agenda in ISD/208 together with the suggestions for additional points circulated by the German Delegation on 26th January;

- (2) agreed that if no objections were raised by close of business on Friday, 2nd February, the draft Agenda, as amended in discussion(1) would be considered as approved;
- (b) Date of Semi-annual meeting of the Committee with Disarmament Experts

The COMMITTEE:

had a further exchange of views on possible dates for this meeting and agreed to resume discussion at the next meeting;

- (c) Romanian proposals on disarmament

The COMMITTEE:

noted a contribution by the Portuguese Representative summarizing the disarmament proposals contained in the Appeal which the Romanian Ambassador in Lisbon had recently handed over to the Portuguese Foreign Minister; noted that the Portuguese Authorities would welcome comments on these proposals;

- (d) Chemical Warfare

The COMMITTEE:

was informed by the United Kingdom Representative of an invitation which his Authorities would shortly extend to all members of the Committee on Disarmament to visit, from 12th-14th March, a CW installation in the United Kingdom, which was due for demolition; it was hoped that this visit would lead to a better understanding of the problem of verification in connection with the demolition or conversion of CW facilities;

- (e) Committee on Disarmament

The COMMITTEE:

had circulated to it by the French Delegation the text of the speech made by the French Foreign Minister to the Committee on Disarmament on 24th January.

(1) Subsequently circulated as ISD/208(Revised)

XIII. PROPOSED SCHEDULE FOR MEETINGS OF THE REGIONAL EXPERT WORKING GROUPS

The COMMITTEE:

agreed that if no objections were raised by close of business on Friday, 2nd February, the following schedule would be considered as approved:

14th-16th February:	Expert Working Group on Africa
21st-23rd February:	Expert Working Group on the Middle East and the Maghreb
28th February-2nd March:	Expert Working Group on Eastern and Southern Asia
28th-30th March:	Expert Working Group on Latin America
3rd-6th April:	Expert Working Group on the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe
17th-20th April:	Ad Hoc Group on the Mediterranean

XIV. 1979 WORK PROGRAMME

The COMMITTEE:

- (1) had a further exchange of views on possible subjects to be included in its work programme for 1979 and on relevant priorities;
- (2) requested the Chairman to circulate a paper for consideration at the next meeting listing the topics which he had suggested together with the amendments and additions proposed in discussion.

XV. LIST OF TOPICS FOR CONSULTATION IN THE COUNCIL ON THE LAW OF THE SEA - 12TH FEBRUARY

The COMMITTEE:

- (1) noted that it had not been possible to reach agreement by the silence procedure on the draft list of topics proposed at the last meeting;

- (2) after further discussion agreed to an amended list of topics.

XVI. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, 6th February, 1979 at 10.30 a.m.

NATO
1110 Brussels