

CONSEIL DE L'ATLANTIQUE NORD
NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL

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

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH
22nd February, 1979

ACTION SHEET
AC/119-R(79)21

POLITICAL COMMITTEE

Meeting held at the NATO Headquarters, 1110 Brussels,
on Tuesday, 20th February, 1979 at 3 p.m.

I. EAST-WEST VISITS

The COMMITTEE:

- (1) noted a contribution by the Luxembourg Delegation reporting on the talks which President Thorn had had with the Chinese Prime Minister in Peking on 25th January;
- (2) noted a contribution by the German Representative reporting on the bilateral German-Bulgarian consultations which had taken place in Bonn the previous week.

II. VISIT OF POLISH FOREIGN MINISTER TO THE SOVIET UNION -
5TH-8TH FEBRUARY

The COMMITTEE:

noted a contribution by the United Kingdom Delegation reporting on this visit.

III. HUNGARY

The COMMITTEE:

noted a contribution by the Italian Representative indicating that President Brezhnev would visit Budapest at the end of March or beginning of April and providing information on the subjects to be discussed during this visit.

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

PA

IV. BULGARIA

The COMMITTEE:

- (1) was informed by the Canadian Representative that according to a Chinese Embassy official in Belgrade, the joint Soviet-Bulgarian manoeuvres, to which the French Representative had referred at the last meeting, were scheduled to be held in Bulgaria in March and would involve two squadrons of MIG-23s as well as new Soviet armour;
- (2) noted a contribution by the Netherlands Representative reporting that contacts with military attachés in the Balkans had confirmed the information provided by the French Representative and putting forward possible reasons for the holding of the manoeuvres;
- (3) was informed by the German Representative that Romania had probably been invited to participate in the joint manoeuvres but had refused.

V. ROMANIA

The COMMITTEE:

noted a contribution by the French Delegation on the contentious issue of the Hungarian minority in Romania and on relations between Romania and Hungary.

VI. SINO-VIETNAMESE CONFLICT

The COMMITTEE:

- (1) had its attention drawn by the United Kingdom Representative to the assessment which his Delegation had circulated through the Situation Centre as AS(79)019;
- (2) noted a contribution by the United Kingdom Representative (a) providing information received from his Ambassador in Hanoi on the state of the conflict and on a conversation which he had had with the Vietnamese Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs and (b) reporting on a démarche by the Vietnamese Ambassador in London to the Minister of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office on 19th February transmitting his Government's concern over the Chinese attack on Vietnam and asking the British Government to take any appropriate measures;

- (3) noted a contribution by the Italian Representative reporting that his Foreign Minister had received the Vietnamese and Chinese Ambassadors on 18th February and giving details of his conversation with the Chinese Ambassador;
- (4) noted a contribution by the Norwegian Representative reporting on visits by the Chinese and Vietnamese Ambassadors to the Norwegian Foreign Ministry on 19th February;
- (5) noted a contribution by the Canadian Representative commenting on the prospects of China achieving its objectives in invading Vietnam and on the Soviet reaction to the invasion.

VII. IRAN

The COMMITTEE:

- (1) noted a contribution by the United Kingdom Representative on Soviet press treatment of the situation in Iran;
- (2) noted a statement by the Italian Representative on the present state of Italian-Iranian relations.

VIII. PAKISTAN

The COMMITTEE:

noted a contribution by the United States Representative on the situation in Pakistan.

IX. MALTA

Reference: AC/119-R(79)17, Item XIII

The COMMITTEE:

- (1) was informed by the Italian Representative that according to his Ambassador in Valletta, the Maltese intended to invite foreign delegations to the celebrations of the removal of the British bases from the island on 31st March and that depending on the nature of the celebrations, the Italian Authorities, if invited, would send a delegation at a level to be agreed with their Allies;

- (2) noted that in the view of the British High Commissioner in Valletta, the Maltese were unlikely to invite foreign dignitaries to attend the celebrations.

X. VISIT OF PRESIDENT OF CAPE VERDE TO LISBON

The COMMITTEE:

noted a contribution by the Portuguese Representative reporting on this visit.

XI. MEETING OF THE WARSAW PACT POLITICAL CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

The COMMITTEE:

- (1) had before it the International Secretariat's analysis in ISD/213;
- (2) heard comments by the German and Netherlands Delegations and requested other Delegations to circulate their comments;
- (3) agreed to have a further exchange of views on ISD/213 at its meeting on 27th March, after which the International Secretariat would circulate a revised draft.

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

(a) Experts' meeting in Valletta

The COMMITTEE:

noted a contribution by the Icelandic Representative reporting on developments during the first week of the Valletta meeting and including the text of the Chairman's statement on organizational aspects, the work programme and Agenda for the meeting;

(b) Preparations for the Madrid meeting

The COMMITTEE:

- (1) noted a contribution by the Netherlands Representative reporting (a) Romanian views on CSCE and the Madrid meeting as they had emerged from conversations on 5th and 6th February between the Netherlands Director General for Political Affairs and the Romanian Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs; (b) Austrian views on CSCE

and possible proposals which they might table at the Madrid meeting, as outlined during a recent visit to the Hague by the Director General in the Austrian Foreign Ministry; and (c) Spanish views on the level of representation at the opening and closing sessions of the Madrid meeting as expressed by the Head of the Spanish Inter-Departmental Committee preparing the Madrid meeting;

- (2) noted general agreement in principle to the holding of a meeting with CSCE experts towards the end of April;

(c) Swiss views on CSCE

The COMMITTEE:

noted comments by the French Representative on the paper circulated by the Canadian Delegation on 19th December, 1978 presenting Swiss views on CSCE;

(d) United States consultations with Warsaw Pact and neutral and non-aligned countries on CSCE

The COMMITTEE:

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

XIII. ARMS CONTROL AND DISARMAMENT ISSUES

(a) Swedish proposal for UN study on nuclear weapons

The COMMITTEE:

was informed by the French, German and Netherlands Representatives of their Authorities' attitude with regard to the Swedish proposal and to participation in any expert group that might be established;

(b) Disarmament resolutions adopted by the 1978 UNGA

The COMMITTEE:

- (1) was informed by the Military Committee Representative that the Military Committee would not need to be formally tasked by the Council if the Political Committee wished to receive IMS staff level views on specific disarmament resolutions;

- (2) following an exchange of views, agreed to establish an open-ended list of resolutions, from which it would select three or four for immediate study; these would include the Swedish proposal for a UN study on nuclear weapons, and chemical weapons;
- (3) noted reactions to suggestions that additional topics might include prohibition of production of fissionable material for nuclear weapons or negative security assurances or weapons of mass destruction;
- (4) agreed to make a final selection of topics at the next meeting;
- (c) Canadian draft resolution on the prohibition of production of fissionable material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices

The COMMITTEE:

heard a statement by the Canadian Representative providing the views of his Authorities on the current status, objectives and future prospects of the Canadian draft resolution;

- (d) Romanian proposals on disarmament

The COMMITTEE:

noted that the Romanian Appeal had also been communicated to Germany and the Netherlands;

- (e) Chemical weapons

The COMMITTEE:

had circulated to it by the Italian Delegation a working paper on chemical disarmament negotiations;

- (f) Committee on Disarmament

The COMMITTEE:

had circulated to it by the Italian Delegation the text of the statement made by the Head of the Italian Delegation to the Committee on Disarmament on 8th February;

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(g) Background brief on arms control and disarmament issues

The COMMITTEE:

had circulated to it by the United Kingdom Delegation a background brief on arms control and disarmament issues;

(h) Semi-annual meeting with disarmament experts - 5th-6th April

The COMMITTEE:

had circulated to it suggested topics for this meeting by the United States Delegation.

XIV. 1979 WORK PROGRAMME

The COMMITTEE:

agreed to proceed with the three studies proposed in ISD/212 on the understanding that a decision had still to be taken with regard to the timeframe for undertaking the third study (Relations within the Warsaw Pact).

XV. PRESS RELEASES

The COMMITTEE:

- (1) agreed to an amendment proposed by the Military Committee Representative to paragraph 3 of the English text of the draft press release for exercise DETERRENT FORCE 1/79 in POLADS(79)6(Revised);
- (2) noted that the amended text was generally acceptable to all Delegations but that the Belgian Delegation would confirm its agreement as soon as the French text had been circulated;
- (3) noted amendments proposed by the French and Italian Representatives to the draft press release for exercise WINTEX/CIMEX 79 in POLADS(79)10 and requested the International Secretariat to circulate a revised text for consideration at the next meeting.

XVI. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, 27th February, 1979 at 10.30 a.m.