

CONSEIL DE L'ATLANTIQUE NORD  
NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL

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

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH  
29th January, 1979

ACTION SHEET  
AC/119-R(79)8

POLITICAL COMMITTEE

Meeting held at the NATO Headquarters, 1110 Brussels,  
on Tuesday, 23rd January, 1979 at 10.30 a.m. and on  
Thursday, 25th January, 1979 at 10.30 a.m.

I. EAST-WEST VISITS

The COMMITTEE:

- (1) was informed by the Italian Representative that he would subsequently report on the conversations held by the Soviet Foreign Minister, Mr. Gromyko, during his current visit to Rome;
- (2) noted a contribution by the Italian Representative summarizing briefly some of the conversations held during the official visit of his Foreign Minister, Mr. Forlani, to Yugoslavia from 11th-13th January and noted that the Italian Permanent Representative would report further to the Council on Mr. Forlani's conversations with President Tito.

II. MEETING OF THE WARSAW PACT POLITICAL CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

The COMMITTEE:

- (1) noted a contribution by the French Representative reporting Romanian reactions to alleged Polish attitudes concerning the latter country's views on increased defence expenditure;
- (2) noted that the Danish Authorities would be interested in additional information on Polish reactions to the Warsaw Pact meeting;

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- (3) agreed that such additional information as might be available could usefully be exchanged at a subsequent meeting.

III. PRESIDENT BREZHNEV'S VISIT TO BULGARIA

The COMMITTEE:

- (1) noted contributions by the Canadian, French, Italian, Portuguese and United States Representatives assessing Mr. Brezhnev's recent visit to Bulgaria and its implications for Soviet relations with Bulgaria, Yugoslavia and Romania and the possible reasons, including those of an internal political nature, which might have contributed to this visit which appeared to differ from the traditional pattern of such visits;
- (2) noted that it would be useful to exchange any further information which became available about the reasons for and nature of this visit and agreed to continue such an exchange at its next meeting.

IV. SOVIET/SPANISH RELATIONS

The COMMITTEE:

noted a contribution by the United Kingdom Delegation assessing the visit paid by the Spanish Foreign Minister to the Soviet Union from 17th-20th January, 1979 and commenting on the more important points raised in the Communiqué of that meeting.

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

The COMMITTEE:

- (1) was informed by the Italian Representative of the content of the letters sent by Mr. Brezhnev to Prime Minister Andreotti at the beginning of December and on 27th December and noted that the Italian Prime Minister was considering whether to reply to this last letter and, if so, the nature it might take;
- (2) was informed by the United Kingdom Representative of the answer given to a Parliamentary Question on 17th January by his Foreign Secretary concerning British views expressed to the Soviet Union on the question of eventual arms sales to China;

- (3) noted that the Netherlands Prime Minister had not yet received a letter from Mr. Brezhnev;
- (4) noted that the Belgian Authorities would welcome further information from their Allies with respect to their intentions regarding replies to Mr. Brezhnev's letter and the nature of such possible replies;
- (5) agreed to seek the views of their national authorities on a further suggestion by the Belgian Representative to the effect that it might be useful for a detailed comparison of the actual texts of Mr. Brezhnev's letters to be made in order to see whether any conclusions could be drawn from possible differences in them.

VI. CHINA

The COMMITTEE:

noted contributions by the Canadian Delegation concerning "Democratic Rights of the Socialist Legal System: Tools for Modernization", "An Assessment of the Stability of the Chinese Leadership" and "Social Conditions in China: The 'Rusticated Youth' Programme" and that the Canadian Authorities would particularly welcome the comments of their Allies on their assessment of the stability of the Chinese leadership.

VII. VIETNAM/CAMBODIA/JAPAN

The COMMITTEE:

- (1) was informed by the Belgian Representative that, unlike Italy, his country had not received any similar démarche with respect to recognition of the new régime in Cambodia; the Belgian Authorities were currently considering relations with Vietnam but had, as yet, taken no decision on modifying them; his Authorities would, however, welcome an exchange of views in the Committee, in particular on the evolution of the bilateral relations of Allies with Hanoi;
- (2) noted a further contribution by the Belgian Representative on the current status of relations between Vietnam and Japan;
- (3) was informed by the Italian Representative of further démarches made by the Chinese and Vietnamese Ambassadors in Rome concerning developments in Cambodia and of the present conclusion of the Italian Authorities with respect to Italy's aid programme to Vietnam.

VIII. IRAN

The COMMITTEE:

- (1) had circulated to it by the United States Representative a statement by Assistant Secretary of State Harold H. Saunders before the International Relations Committee of the House of Representatives on 18th January, 1979 on the present situation in Iran and its implications;
- (2) noted a contribution by the United Kingdom Delegation assessing recent Soviet comment on developments in Iran.

IX. AFGHANISTAN

The COMMITTEE:

was informed by the United Kingdom Representative that on 13th February, under Item I(c), he would raise the question of recent developments in Afghanistan and hoped that other Allies might be able to exchange papers in advance of this meeting in order to facilitate discussion.

X. 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) was informed by the United Kingdom Representative that if an informal meeting was held in Valletta on 12th February to discuss procedural matters including the rôle of the Non-Participating Mediterranean States, a British Representative would be prepared to attend;
- (2) noted a report by the French Representative on the informal meeting which several members of the "Nine" had had with Mr. Naudi;
- (3) noted a contribution by the Portuguese Representative reporting Egyptian and Moroccan attitudes towards the Valletta meeting;
- (4) noted a contribution by the Canadian Representative reporting on Soviet views concerning preparations for the Valletta meeting and on relations with Malta in general as reflected during the recent Susloy and Intourist missions to Malta and noted that the Italian Authorities' assessment was similar to that of the Canadian Authorities;

(b) Preparations for Madrid

The COMMITTEE:

- (1) noted a contribution by the Netherlands Representative reporting the views expressed in recent conversations between his country's Ambassador in Bucharest and Mr. Lipati and East German Ambassador Bock on preparations for Madrid;
- (2) noted a contribution by the Danish Representative reporting the current Czechoslovak attitude with respect to preparations for and the objectives of the Madrid meeting, including the possible level of representation at that meeting;

(c) Implementation of the Helsinki Final Act

The COMMITTEE:

received from the United States Representative the fifth semi-annual report by the President to the Commission on Security and Co-operation in Europe on the implementation of the Helsinki Final Act;

(d) Exercises

The COMMITTEE:

- (1) was informed by the German Representative that the Soviet Union had accepted the invitation to send observers to exercise "CERTAIN SENTINEL";
- (2) was informed by the Norwegian Representative that he would shortly circulate the draft text for the notification of exercise "COLD WINTER" and that his Authorities would appreciate any comments by delegations on this draft text;
- (3) noted a reply by the Military Committee Representative to a question posed by the Canadian Representative clarifying the overall total of troops participating in exercise "DISPLAY DETERMINATION 1979";
- (4) noted that the United States Representative would shortly circulate information on United States participation in 1979 exercises and that the International Staff would shortly circulate the calender of 1979 exercises.

XI. ARMS CONTROL AND DISARMAMENT ISSUES

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

The COMMITTEE:

- (1) noted the additional suggestions proposed by the German Authorities for additions to the draft Agenda set out in ISD/208;
  - (2) noted the Military Committee Representative would appreciate knowing in advance if discussion of any other weapons was likely to take place under proposed Item II(b)(vi) and, if so, which specific weapons were involved;
  - (3) agreed to seek to reach agreement on the Agenda at its next meeting;
- (b) Dates for the Semi-Annual Meeting of the Committee with Disarmament Experts

The COMMITTEE:

- (1) was informed that the Danish Authorities proposed that this meeting be held on 25th and 26th April, whereas the United States Authorities preferred it to be held in the first week of April;
- (2) noted the Chairman's request that delegations seek the views of their Authorities on this question in order that an early decision on the date could be reached.

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

The COMMITTEE:

- (1) further examined the draft list of topics set out in ISD/209;
- (2) in the course of further discussion agreed to add the Greek Delegation's suggestion, namely "settlement of differences" and agreed to delete the topics included under sub-section C on the understanding that these could be raised under sub-section A;
- (3) agreed that in the absence of objection made known by close of business on 26th January, this draft list of topics, as amended, would be approved.

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

The COMMITTEE:

agreed to seek the views of their Authorities on the following two alternative sets of dates: alternative suggested by the Chairman:

|                                   |                         |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Latin American Experts            | 28th February-2nd March |
| Soviet Experts                    | 27th February-3rd March |
| Eastern and Southern Asia Experts | 4th-6th April           |

Alternative proposed by the United States Delegation:

|                                    |                         |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Eastern and Southern Asian Experts | 28th February-2nd March |
| Latin American Experts             | 28th-30th March         |
| Soviet Experts                     | 3rd-6th April           |

XIV. REVISED INVENTORY OF PREVENTIVE MEASURES

The COMMITTEE:

agreed that the revised inventory of preventive measures (ISD/207 as modified by the Addendum) could now be issued as a Council document for approval by the Council under the silence procedure.

XV. EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON THE POLITICAL CONSULTATION ON THE 1979 WORK PROGRAMME

The COMMITTEE:

- (1) had a wide-ranging exchange of views on the nature, extent, content and practices of political consultation in the Committee;
- (2) noted a statement by the United Kingdom Representative reviewing current practices for political consultation in the Committee and making suggestions of ways to improve them by a more structured approach;
- (3) noted that for the French Representative the essential principle was that it was for the Committee itself to decide, by consensus and on a case-by-case basis, whether it was opportune for any paper, either a Committee report or an International Staff paper, to be circulated;

- (4) noted that the Turkish Representative supported this approach;
- (5) with respect to discussion of the Netherlands proposal for consultation on South West Asia, noted the following main points:
- the French Representative expressed surprise that a proposal which had not received consensus by Permanent Representatives should be brought up in the Committee; he recalled that one of the features of political consultation within the Alliance was the absence of all constraint; he expressed reservations both on the form of the Netherlands proposal, which would lead to the institutionalizing of political consultation, and on its substance, since the subjects mentioned related to a geographical area not covered by the Alliance; these matters could be raised under Item I(c) of the Agenda and more usefully discussed by the regional expert groups;
  - the Turkish Delegation adopted a similar approach;
  - other delegations supported the Netherlands proposal for consultation on developments in this area which affect the security and interests of the Alliance and of its member countries;
  - in conclusion, no objections were raised to the understanding that each delegation was free to initiate an exchange of views and information under Standing Item I(c) of the Agenda on any matter and that, in this context, the Netherlands' paper could be considered as an illustrative source of relevant topics which, as desired, could be raised in the Committee or the appropriate regional experts' group;
- (6) with respect to the Committee's Work Programme for 1979:
- continued its discussion of the possible subjects to be included and the priorities which might be given to their discussion;
  - noted that the United States Authorities proposed as another possible subject "Soviet Relations with Third World Islamic Countries"(including the implications of the Friendship Treaties, Soviet reactions to Islamic fundamentalism and the implications for the Islamic minority in the Soviet Union);

- agreed to revert to this discussion at its next meeting.

XVI. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, 30th January, 1979 at 10.30 a.m.

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