

CONSEIL DE L'ATLANTIQUE NORD
NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL

EXEMPLAIRE N° 184
COPY

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

ORIGINAL: FRENCH
11th June, 1979

DECISION SHEET
AC/127-R/531

ECONOMIC COMMITTEE

Meeting held at NATO Headquarters, 1110 Brussels on
Thursday, 7th June, 1979 at 10.30 a.m.

DECISION SHEET

I. EAST-WEST VISITS

The COMMITTEE was informed:

- (1) by the Portuguese Representative of the economic aspects of the visit paid to Lisbon on 3rd and 4th May, 1979 by the Polish Foreign Minister;
- (2) by the Icelandic Representative of the gist of the economic talks which took place on 17th May, 1979 between Mr. B. Grondal, the Icelandic Foreign Minister, and his East German opposite number, Mr. O. Fischer;
- (3) by the United States Representative:
 - of the progress of commercial relations between the United States and Romania after the recent visit to Bucharest by the Secretary of Commerce, Mrs. J. Kreps, at the Head of the United States Delegation to the fifth session of the United States-Romanian Commission;
 - of the results of Mr. Kosygin's recent visit to Prague;
- (4) by the German Representative of the decision taken in Bonn on 18th May, 1979 by the Federal Minister for Economic Affairs, Dr. Lambsdorf, and the Bulgarian Minister for Foreign Trade, Mr. Kristov, to start talks on the conclusion of an agreement for the promotion of investments by German firms in Bulgaria.

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II. RECENT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS IN THE USSR, EASTERN EUROPE AND THE PRC

(a) Soviet Union and Eastern Europe

The COMMITTEE:

- (1) had its attention drawn by Mr. P. Joseph (Economic Directorate) to ED/EC/79/34 which contained annotated articles on:
 - a recent conference in Vienna on East-West energy relations;
 - the Soviet Northern sea route;
 - the energy situation in Yugoslavia;
- (2) was informed by the Chairman that ED/EC/79/31 on the socio-economic background to the visit of Pope John Paul II to Poland had been forwarded to the Chairman of the Political Committee; a joint meeting of the Economic and Political Committees would probably be held shortly to finalise a report on the present economic and political situation in Poland;
- (3) took note of a contribution from the United States Representative providing comments on recent statements by President Ceausescu on the fulfilment in the first quarter of the 1979 economic planning targets;
- (4) noted the information provided by Mr. A. Parker (United States Delegation) on the economic situation in the GDR and went on to hold an exchange of views on the scope of the measures introduced recently by the East German Authorities to restrict the circulation of convertible currency in their country and on the GDR's involvement in the developing countries, particularly in Africa.

(b) China

The COMMITTEE noted the following contributions:

- (1) from the United Kingdom Representative on the outlook for energy production in China;
- (2) from the United States Representative on the Chinese iron and steel industry in the 1970s and 1980s.

III. EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION

The COMMITTEE:

took note of the two following contributions circulated by the United Kingdom and United States Delegations respectively on (1) the information received in April 1979 on the economic activities of the Communist countries in the Third World and (2) the international tungsten market.

IV. CSCE

The COMMITTEE:

- (1) heard from the United States Representative that the Political Committee had received copies of the half-yearly report by the President of the United States on the CSCE;
- (2) noted the request by the United States Representative to the other members of the Committee for an exchange of information on the composition of their respective delegations to the CSCE Scientific Forum, a meeting of which was scheduled for February 1980.

V. FOLLOW-UP TO THE MINISTERIAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL
(The Hague, 30th and 31st May, 1979)

The COMMITTEE:

- (1) received information from the Chairman on the Council's discussion of the report on economic and financial assistance within the Alliance and went on to hold a brief exchange of views on this matter;
- (2) agreed to await the Secretary General's report to the Council on the follow-up to the Ministerial Meeting and any guidelines which might ensue for the Economic Committee.

VI. PROGRAMME OF WORK

Reference: ED/EC/79/35

The COMMITTEE:

- (1) held a preliminary exchange of views on the Chairman's suggestions concerning the inclusion of new activities in the Committee's programme of work and noted the views expressed by the various delegations particularly regarding the financial implications of these projects;
- (2) considered the draft programme of work in ED/EC/79/35 and, after hearing the preliminary comments of delegations on the degrees of priority to be given to the meetings of experts planned for 1979 and 1980 and some further suggestions, agreed to resume discussions on the basis of instructions received during the forthcoming ordinary meetings of the Committee.

VII. THEMES FOR THE ECONOMIC COLLOQUIA IN 1980 AND 1981

Reference: ED/EC/79/32

The COMMITTEE:

- (1) noted the preferences expressed and the new suggestions made by the United Kingdom, United States, Netherlands and Danish Representatives regarding the choice of theme for the next economic colloquia;
- (2) agreed to resume discussions at a forthcoming meeting.

VIII. ORGANIZATION OF THE NEXT REINFORCED MEETINGS

- (a) On energy in the USSR and Eastern Europe (18th and 19th July, 1979)

References: ED/EC/79/20
ED/EC/79/33
ED/79/47

The COMMITTEE:

- (1) was informed by the United States Representative that approaches had been made to representatives of the private oil sector who had the appropriate security clearance and could therefore take part in the meeting;

- (2) noted that the Economic Directorate had issued a bibliography of basic works and documents which could be used as background for this meeting;
 - (3) agreed to resume discussions at a forthcoming meeting.
- (b) On Soviet and East European aid to the Third World (11th and 12th July, 1979)

The COMMITTEE:

noted, that to enable national experts taking part in the meeting to be able to deal with the various questions which might arise, in particular that of the supply of raw materials, it would be desirable for a detailed draft Agenda to be circulated as soon as possible by the International Staff.

IX. VISIT TO NATO HEADQUARTERS BY PROF. G.M. HOFFMAN, PRESIDENT OF THE GEOGRAPHICAL DEPARTMENT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS (11th June, 1979)

The COMMITTEE:

received from Mr. P. Joseph of the Economic Directorate the Agenda for the discussions which would be taking place during this visit and in which the members of the Committee were invited to join.

X. DATES OF THE NEXT MEETINGS

- (1) 13th, 14th and 15th June, 1979: reinforced meeting on Soviet and non-Soviet Warsaw Pact defence expenditure (AC/127-A/632);
- (2) 18th and 19th June, 1979: reinforced meeting on the Soviet merchant and fishing fleets (AC/127-A/633);
- (3) Thursday, 21st June, 1979 at 10.30 a.m.: next ordinary meeting (AC/127-A/634 - to be circulated).

NATO,
1110 Brussels.