

CONSEIL DE L'ATLANTIQUE NORD
NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL

EXEMPLAIRE
COPY

N° 348

BE RETURNED TO INDEX UNIT
CONFIDENTIAL

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH
28th September, 1971

DOCUMENT
C-M(71)57

SOVIET ASSESSMENT OF THE BERLIN AGREEMENT
AND INTEREST IN A CES

Report by the Chairman of the Political Committee

The Council at its meeting of 15th September, 1971 directed the Political Committee to study the recent round of démarches by Soviet diplomatic representatives in certain NATO capitals and to prepare a Chairman's Report on the subject for the Council's information. Among the questions to be examined by the Committee was the degree of current Soviet interest in a CES, as disclosed by these démarches and other evidence.

2. On 4th September, the Soviet newspaper Pravda published the full text of the Quadripartite Agreement which had been signed in Berlin the day before. Beside the text appeared a lengthy editorial(1), analysing the significance of the Agreement from the Soviet point of view. Pravda credited the accord to Soviet initiative and hailed it as a landmark on the road to European peace and security. The editorial alluded only in passing to the convening of an all-European conference. Moreover, Pravda avoided addressing the question of the connection between the Berlin Agreement and a CES, merely suggesting that the rapid entry into force of this important agreement would open perspectives for "the positive solution also of other outstanding and urgent problems of European and world politics".

3. Between 6th and 14th September, the Soviet Ambassadors or Chargés d'Affaires in Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway and Turkey made calls on Foreign Ministers or other senior officials of the host government. No such approaches were made in Bonn, London, Paris or Washington, presumably because these capitals are actively involved in the phases of the Berlin negotiations which remain to be concluded. The failure to make calls in other NATO capitals may have been due to other circumstances (e.g. the fact that Portugal does not have diplomatic relations with the USSR).

4. As the discussion in the Political Committee made clear, the basic presentation made by the Soviet diplomats followed very closely the lines of the Pravda editorial. In their individual comments and questions accompanying the presentation, however, some Soviet representatives evinced more interest than others in the CES aspect.

(1) See Soviet and East European Documentation, No. 4

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

C-M(71)57

-2-

5. It was likewise brought out in the Committee discussion that, although the remarks made by the Soviet diplomats may not have created everywhere the same impression, there was nevertheless abundant collateral evidence to prove that the Soviet and Warsaw Pact interest in the eventual convening of a CES continues undiminished. In this connection, there were cited inter alia the talks held in Moscow on 4th to 9th September by senior Turkish officials; the official visits to Hungary and Bulgaria, 8th to 11th September, by the French Foreign Minister; and the conversations in the Crimea, 16th to 18th September, between the Federal Chancellor and CPSU General Secretary Brezhnev.

6. The tentative conclusion reached following the discussion in the Political Committee is that although the Soviets have protested vigorously in the past about the Berlin "pre-condition", and no doubt continue to harbour objections to it in principle, they have nonetheless come to accept it as a fact of political life.

(Signed) Jörg KASTL

NATO,
1110 Brussels.

*of ...
...
...*