



ORGANISATION DU TRAITÉ DE L'ATLANTIQUE NORD
NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION

NATO UNCLASSIFIED
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PALAIS DE CHAILLOT
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Tél. : KLEber 50-20

ANGLAIS/FRANCAIS

NATO SANS CLASSIFICATION
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MEMORANDUM

Aux : Secrétaires des Délégations

Du : Secrétaire Exécutif

M. Paul Auer, ancien Ministre de Hongrie en France, Président de l'Assemblée des Nations Captives d'Europe, a prié le Secrétaire Général de bien vouloir faire distribuer le texte ci-joint aux Ministres des Affaires Etrangères des Etats membres de l'OTAN.

(Signé) COLERIDGE

13 décembre 1956

The ASSEMBLY OF CAPTIVE EUROPEAN NATIONS sends greetings to the distinguished representatives of NATO powers in council assembled, and wishes them complete success in their endeavours to further strengthen their alliance, so essential to the survival of the free world.

In the light of recent events in Central East Europe, culminating in the revolution of the Hungarian people, the Assembly of Captive European Nations trusts that, taking inspiration from recent pronouncements of the Consultative Assembly of the Council of Europe, the NATO powers will affirm their responsibility and concern for the future of Soviet enslaved European nations and their right to ask that freedom of decision by the people, guaranteed by free elections, should be restored to these nations.

We respectfully submit a few of the reasons prompting us to hope that the NATO powers would adopt such course of action:

1. Events have demonstrated both the bankruptcy of communism and the failure of the USSR, after more than a decade of oppression, exploitation and extermination, to subdue the spirit and national will of captive peoples.

They have further proved that captive peoples want both independence and freedom.

The Hungarian people have written in their blood the rejection by all captive peoples of communism in whatever form.

2. The basic lesson of the Hungarian revolution is that captive peoples can liberate themselves, provided the USSR is deterred from intervening by the fear of serious consequences.

With the peoples of their vast slave empire seething in latent revolt and with their goals in modern armaments as yet unattained, it is most unlikely for the Soviets to risk war today.

In the view of those who have battled the Russians in Hungary, unwarranted fear of war has deprived the free nations of a unique opportunity to push forward the borders of freedom, and thus take a decisive step towards real peace.

3. The unification of Germany and the liberation of Albania, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and Romania are two aspects of the same problem.

If the USSR can be brought to accept German unification it can also be pressed into relinquishing the rest of her East European Empire.

But this cannot be achieved by persuasion. It can only be accomplished through the combined pressure of the captive peoples and the free nations.

4. With the advances of the USSR in modern weapons of total destruction, Europe will increasingly be exposed to the threat of atomic blackmail.

Peace and freedom are becoming indivisible in the atomic age.

A dynamic political offensive designed to advance the borders of freedom appears, in these conditions, an essential component of western defences.

The events in Hungary and other captive nations have shown that the prerequisites for the successful conduct of such a policy exist, and that the victory of freedom in Europe is mostly a matter of will and determination.

The ASSEMBLY OF CAPTIVE EUROPEAN NATIONS may be permitted to hope that the first practical outcome of the Paris deliberations will be a new resolve of the NATO powers to press in the United Nations for the adoption of effective measures for the enforcement of the resolutions taken on Hungary.

(Signed) Villis MASENS,
President of the Assembly of
Captive European Nations.
New York.

Transmis par le Bureau de l'Acen à Paris
149 rue de Grenelle 7^o, le 12 décembre 1956.