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ORIGINAL: FRENCH
12th March, 1975

POLADS(75)9MEMORANDUM

To: Political Committee
From: Chairman of the Expert Group

EXPERT WORKING GROUP ON SOVIET UNION AND EASTERN EUROPE

Attached is a suggested outline for the Report on the Situation in Soviet Union and Eastern Europe to be prepared by the Experts at their next meeting in Brussels from Monday, 12th to Thursday, 15th May, 1975.

2. This outline contains the main headings under which it is suggested the Report be formulated. The points listed - on a non-limitative basis - under these headings are suggested for possible inclusion, in whole or in part, in the national contributions submitted beforehand. The Experts have urged that as much time as possible should be given to the general discussion. To this end, it is essential that national contributions should reach capitals well before the Experts leave for NATO; contributions should therefore reach NATO by 5th May, 1975 so that they can be circulated in good time. The reports should be typed in double spacing, recto only, be prefaced by a short table of contents and pages and paragraphs should be numbered. It would be appreciated if the Secretariat, which will attend to their circulation, could receive 60 copies addressed to the Secretary General of NATO (for the attention of Mr. M.J. Jordan, Executive Secretariat).

3. Under the Terms of Reference for Experts' meeting as agreed by the Council on 4th October, 1961, the Report is to be drafted by the Experts themselves; it is noted, however, that conclusions and policy implications contained in the Report need not be accepted unanimously, on the understanding that dissident views should also be recorded, if the dissenting party so wishes. These reports will be presented to the Council in Permanent Session immediately on completion. The Council will take note

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of them and, if it sees fit, will submit them unchanged, in whole or in part, to the next meeting of Ministers. These Reports do not, of course, commit governments on matters of policy.

4. Experts may wish to consult C-M(74)73, dated 18th November, 1974.

(Signed) J. de BEAUSSE

NATO,
1110 Brussels.

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SUGGESTED OUTLINE FOR THE REPORT BY THE
EXPERT WORKING GROUP ON THE SOVIET UNION AND EASTERN EUROPE

I. SOVIET UNION - Internal situation

A. Political:

- Mr. Brezhnev's position;
- the present balance of forces within the leadership;
- future prospects;
- attitude of the authorities to dissidents and Jewish citizens wishing to emigrate.

B. Economic:

- domestic agricultural and industrial output;
- trends in foreign trade and the balance of payments.

II. SOVIET UNION - Foreign policy

A. Ideological co-operation and inter-party relations:

- conferences of European Communist Parties;
- prospects for a World Conference of Communist and Workers' Parties.

Economic relations within COMECON.

B. East-West relations:

- implications of the domestic situation for the policy of détente and East-West relations;
- CSCE and MBFR;
- relations with the countries of North America;
- relations with the countries of Western Europe.

C. Soviet policy in Asia:

- relations with China;
- relations with Japan;
- Soviet policy in Southern Asia and proposed collective security system in Asia.

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D. Soviet policy in the Middle East and Africa:

- the Soviet Union and efforts to find a solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict;
- the Soviet Union and the Palestinians;
- activities in the African countries.

III. THE SITUATION IN EASTERN EUROPE

A. Situation in the GDR - Problem of Berlin.

B. Situation in Poland, Hungary and Czechoslovakia.

C. Situation in the Balkans:

- internal situation in Yugoslavia;
- Yugoslavia's relations with the Soviet Union and with its neighbours: Rumania, Bulgaria and Albania;
- Rumania: internal situation and relations with the Soviet Union.