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N A T O R E S T R I C T E D

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To: Permanent Representatives (Council)

From: Secretary General

PARTICIPATION OF NON-NATO NATIONALS IN  
SCIENCE COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

Permanent Representatives will recall that, during the Council meeting on 5th February 1982, consideration was given to the participation of non-NATO nationals in seminars and other activities supported by the NATO Science Committee. Particular emphasis was laid on the participation of East European scientists and engineers in such activities. In response to questions raised by members of the Council concerning such participation, the Scientific Affairs Division has prepared the attached factual statement on current policies and procedures.

2. At Annex will be found summary analysis of the participation and costs of non-NATO nationals in Advanced Study Institutes in 1980 - the latest year for which figures are available. In response to the request for information on the 1982 Programme of NATO Advanced Study Institutes, a listing of activities by subject field giving location and dates is being circulated separately.

3. I propose to re-inscribe this question on the Agenda of an early meeting of the Council.

(Signed) Joseph M.A.H. LUNS

This document includes: 1 Annex

N A T O R E S T R I C T E D

PARTICIPATION OF NON-NATO NATIONALS IN SCIENCE  
COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

Reference: C-R(71)38, Item III, dated 12th August 1971.

Background

1. Since its inception, the Science Committee has given special attention to the importance of co-operation and collaboration between scientists as a key factor in improving the effectiveness of Western science. The recognition that professional communication in fundamental sciences works to the benefit of all has provided the basis for encouraging participation of qualified scientists from non-NATO countries in several of the Committee's activities. The high quality of NATO science activities has attracted in particular participants from non-NATO countries to advanced study institutes. Since 1970, the percentage of such participation has varied between 9% and 15% with no discernable trend. Total non-NATO country participation was less than 13% in 1980; Eastern Bloc participation was less than 2%.

2. A discussion within the Science Committee on its policy concerning non-NATO country participants took place in October 1970. On that occasion, the Science Committee "agreed that the Committee interest was essentially substantive - i.e. in improving the quality of the advanced study institutes through the participation of non-NATO country scientists". The Committee's conclusions were submitted to the Council which, at a meeting in July 1971, confirmed the decision taken by the Science Committee, noting that the approach taken was based on scientific and not political reasons, that implementation should be modest and of a low-key nature, and that such implementation should not affect the bargaining position of the NATO countries in any possible East-West negotiations.

Procedures, Conditions and Limitations

3. The Science Committee, through its chairman, has set limits and conditions for the participation of non-NATO country scientists in Science Committee activities. These conditions have been formulated recently in a policy contained in the Scope Statement for the Advanced Study Institutes Programme (training seminars). The relevant passage states:

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"Lecturers should be drawn from at least three NATO countries; not more than 40% should come from any one country. In exceptional circumstances, qualified lecturers from non-NATO countries may be invited after permission has been granted by the Scientific Affairs Division. All lecturers may receive support for travel and living expenses not covered by other sources.

Student participants should be drawn from as many NATO countries as possible, though not more than 20% of the total should be from any one NATO country. Participants from non-NATO countries should not exceed 20% of the total. Only student participants from higher education institutions and non-profit-making research institutions in NATO countries are eligible to receive grants for defraying travel and living expenses not covered from other sources".

4. This means, that beginning in 1981, only under exceptional circumstances may specially qualified lecturers from non-NATO countries be invited by an institute (seminar or workshop) director. The inference here is that such lecturers must provide exceptional, unique scientific qualifications which are not available within the scientific community of the Alliance. Lecturers can receive travel and living expenses from NATO funds. However, as far as student participants are concerned, only those from NATO countries (in higher education institutions or non-profit-making research institutions) are eligible for support from NATO funds.

5. Thus, with respect to procedures for inviting and selecting lecturers and other participants from non-NATO countries, the directors of NATO sponsored activities are informed that:

- (a) Invitations to all lecturers/key speakers must be issued on a personal basis and no substitution can be accepted, irrespective of country of origin. Qualified lecturers from non-NATO countries may be invited in special circumstances only after permission has been granted by the Chairman of the Science Committee.

- (b) The qualifications of participants of student status from non-NATO countries should be vouchsafed by at least one well-known scientist, personally recognised by the seminar director, and such participants can only be accepted after permission has been granted by the Chairman of the Science Committee.
- (c) In making his decision, the Chairman will take into account the views of the Committee Members.

1980 Advanced Study Institutes Programme

6. Of 5,606 student participants and lecturers in 72 institutes held in 1980, some 722 or 12.9% came from non-NATO countries. Of these 85 student participants and lecturers (1.5%) came from East European countries. The average cost (travel and living expenses only) of the 12 lecturers from these Eastern countries was \$550 compared with \$720 for lecturers in the overall programme. The total cost of East European lecturers, less than \$6,600, compares with \$81,000 provided for all non-NATO-country lecturers and \$670,000 for NATO-country lecturers. The overall programme was funded at \$2,500,000.

7. The 85 Eastern Bloc student participants and lecturers who attended 33 schools were distributed as follows:

|               |    |                         |
|---------------|----|-------------------------|
| Poland:       | 49 | (including 5 lecturers) |
| Hungary:      | 12 | ( " 2 " )               |
| USSR:         | 9  | ( " 3 " )               |
| Bulgaria:     | 7  | ( " 2 " )               |
| Roumania:     | 5  | ( " 0 " )               |
| East Germany: | 3  | ( " 0 " )               |

8. An analysis has been carried out of the subject matter of the 33 seminars attended by East Europeans with respect to sensitive technology areas. Some 20 were of no or very little technological interest, 10 were of some interest and 3 of high interest. Of the 85 student participants and lecturers attending these 33 seminars, 6 East Europeans attended high technology seminars, 28 attended seminars having some interest and the remaining 51 attended seminars having no or little technological interest. There seems to have been no discernible interest in concentrating participation on technology-oriented seminars.

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