

CONSEIL DE L'ATLANTIQUE NORD
NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL

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NATO SECRET
ACTION SHEET
AC/119-R(69)23

POLITICAL COMMITTEE

Meeting held on Wednesday, 12th March, 1969

ACTION SHEET

I. FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS IN EASTERN EUROPE: CONTINGENCY STUDIES

The COMMITTEE:

- (1) heard a presentation by the Military Committee Representative stressing that the measures listed in Part III of POLADS(69)10(2nd revise) were not presented in an order of priority and that there was some overlapping between Parts I and II of the list. It was also pointed out that no compulsory character attached to any of these measures;
- (2) agreed that Part III substantially fitted within the general framework of the study but after a discussion suggested that the Military Committee Representative should present a consolidated list of measures;
- (3) noted that the French Delegation could not associate itself with Part III of the document nor with the corresponding paragraphs in the introduction. A note to that effect would be introduced in the final version of the document;
- (4) took note of reservations put by the Danish Representative on certain of the measures listed in Part III.

II. DEVELOPMENTS IN EASTERN EUROPE AND THEIR IMPLICATIONS

The COMMITTEE:

- (1) welcomed an offer by the United States Delegation to circulate an informational report on this subject;

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- (2) heard a report by the Greek and Turkish Representatives of unconfirmed information that manoeuvres were taking place in Bulgaria with planned retreating movements which may in the end lead Bulgarian and other Warsaw Pact troops to carry out the exercise on Rumanian territory and asked whether other delegations had information which would tend to confirm this report;
- (3) noted that the Turkish Representative had received information from the Turkish Embassy in Bucharest that an early visit of Messrs. Brezhnev and Kosygin to Rumania was envisaged;
- (4) decided, in view of the late hour, that no meaningful discussion could take place before this material had been received and therefore postponed further discussion on the subject until a further meeting.

III. RESTRICTIONS ON TRAVEL BY SOVIET ZONE RESIDENTS

The COMMITTEE:

heard a statement by the Italian Representative on the circumstances in which it had been possible for representatives of the East German Communist Party to take part in the recent Congress of the Italian Communist Party in Bologna.

IV. EAST/WEST CONTACTS

The COMMITTEE:

- (1) had an exchange of views on the desirability of establishing a consolidated list of East/West contacts but, since a few countries only had so far sent their contribution and while pressure of work in preparation for the Spring Ministerial Meeting was now growing rapidly, agreed that procedures for establishing the list as well as the best use to be made of it, would be considered at a later meeting after the Spring Ministerial Meeting had taken place and when all delegations had forwarded their contribution;
- (2) heard a statement by the United Kingdom Representative that his Government intended to send an official message to the Hungarian President on the occasion of the Hungarian National Day, and noted that the Turkish Authorities also intended to send a similar message;

- (3) was also made aware of a visit to Warsaw, Prague and Budapest by Mr. Giffard, Head of the Eastern European and Soviet Department of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office;
- (4) took note of a letter by the Canadian Representative circulated at the meeting, outlining the intention of the Canadian Government to resume contacts with the East in a gradual and selective manner, due account being taken of their NATO allies' attitude;
- (5) noted that the Luxembourg Authorities had received last week a note from the USSR Embassy in Luxembourg pressing for exchanges of views on a number of questions, inviting the Minister of Foreign Affairs to Moscow and suggesting an exchange of parliamentary teams;
- (6) was advised by the Greek Representative that the Rumanian Minister of Commerce would visit Athens in April.

IV. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

To be fixed later.

OTAN/NATO,
Brussels, 39.

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