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COMMITTEE OF POLITICAL ADVISERS

CURRENT TRENDS IN SOVIET POLICY

Note by the Greek Delegation

Following are the comments made by the Greek Representative at the Political Advisers' Committee meeting of 24th September, 1963 on POLADS(63)8/13.

2. Sino-Soviet Relations - in the conference of the Executive Committee of the Afro-Asian Peoples' Solidarity Organization, which was held in Cyprus recently, the Outer Mongolian members voted with the Chinese against a resolution concerning the Moscow Test Ban Agreement. As Outer Mongolia, usually up to now, followed the Soviet line in its external policy, this case merits some attention.

3. In our view, Soviet Russia chose the course of the improvement of its relations with the West, so as to be able to concentrate on its internal problems and those arising from its dispute with China. At the present time, at least, there is no indication that the Soviet Union is going to change more than its tactics. The Soviets have not stopped repeating that on the ideological field the communist struggle against the non-communist world will continue until the final victory. Nor has the Eastern bloc changed its tactics of supporting morally the leftist forces in the non-communist country as it did before. Khrushchev's line of support of the progressive forces in the world, with all it implies, still is a fundamental element of Soviet policy.

4. In a more general way, we think that the Sino-Soviet dispute which has already had repercussions on the interstate relations between the Soviet Union and China may develop into a rift within the communist bloc in ~~the~~ case the Chinese would extend their polemics into fields of vital interest to the Russians, that means if the Chinese were to put territorial claims or achieve the support of important communist parties in other countries. In such a case we expect the Soviet reaction to be resolute and firm.

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5. Part IV of the questionnaire. A development which has some importance, and which concerns more specifically the southern flank of NATO, is the recent attitude of Bulgaria towards Greece. After many months of silence and delay the Bulgarian Government has replied in the affirmative to a proposal which had been made by the Greek Government in December 1962, with the aim of initiating simultaneous negotiations on all outstanding problems between the two countries. These negotiations are expected to start in the days to come. The outcome of these negotiations, which we approach in a very positive spirit, will give us a clearer indication about the real intentions of the communist bloc. As yet we have no clear ideas about the motives of the Bulgarian response to our proposals. We do not know for sure yet whether this was a move fitting into the general pattern of the détente, or whether it is a move made at the eve of the elections in Greece to influence the internal political trends in Greece. Anyway, there are some manifestations on the Bulgarian side which make us rather hesitant to accept the frankness of their attitude. I think of what the Bulgarian Representative said in the Geneva Conference on Disarmament. In fact he stated that his country had reduced twice its armed forces in the last few years. Notwithstanding this statement our information is as follows:

- (a) Bulgaria has now five motorised and three armoured divisions as compared to two of each kind in 1961.
- (b) The conversion of the infantry divisions into motorised divisions brought with it an increase of 2,000 men per division and an enlarging of the units of logistic support.
- (c) By modernising its aviation material and its infrastructure, and by acquiring ground-to-air missiles, Bulgaria increased its combat capabilities by 100% as compared to the level it had in 1952.

6. As against these facts we have unconfirmed information that some hundreds of military personnel have been detached to civil services and that conscripts are being used for the construction of productive works. But these measures, even if they were confirmed, would not constitute a proof for the existence of an intention or decision to reduce the armed forces of this country.

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