

CONSEIL DE L'ATLANTIQUE NORD
NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL

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

EXEMPLAIRE
COPY

N° 167

ORIGINAL: FRENCH
8th February, 1977

DECISION SHEET
AC/127-R/534

ECONOMIC COMMITTEE

Meeting held at NATO Headquarters, 1110 Brussels
on Thursday, 3rd February, 1977 at 10.15 a.m.

DECISION SHEET

I. EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FINAL
ACT OF THE CSCE AND PREPARATION OF THE 1977 BELGRADE
MEETINGS (BASKET TWO)

The COMMITTEE:

- (1) noted that the United Kingdom Delegation would be informing it of the outcome of the work of the Working Group of the "Nine" on the CSCE (meetings on 3rd, 4th and 11th February) particularly with respect to the possible submission by the Community countries in Belgrade of new proposals within the framework of Basket Two;
- (2) noted, furthermore, a statement by the Netherlands Representative outlining his Authorities' preliminary views on the suggestions contained in the United States Delegation's note dated 20th January; noted, in particular, that these views formulated prior to the meeting of the "Nine" on the CSCE did not reflect the official Netherlands position and were simply an initial contribution to the Committee's discussion of the United States proposals;
- (3) likewise noted the German Authorities' initial reaction to these proposals, currently the subject of a detailed study in Bonn the outcome of which would be reported to the Committee by the German Representative in due course;
- (4) agreed to continue this discussion at its next meeting.

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

II. AGENDA FOR THE MEETING WITH THE HEADS OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE SERVICES (ECONOMIC SECTIONS) 24TH-25TH FEBRUARY, 1977

References: ED/EC/77/10
AC/127-R/533, Item III

The COMMITTEE:

- (1) noted the comments by the United States, French and German Representatives, speaking in that order, on the draft Agenda suggested by the International Staff;
- (2) noted that these comments would be taken into account in the forthcoming preparation of the revised version(1).

III. PREPARATION OF UNCLASSIFIED VERSIONS OF COUNCIL REPORTS

Documents: ED/EC/77/2
ED/EC/77/7
C-M(76)2

References: C-M(64)114
C-R(76)47, paragraph 72

The COMMITTEE:

- (1) noted a statement by the French Representative conveying his Authorities' views on the general problem of declassification of NATO documents and their reservations concerning the declassification of Economic Committee papers (except when otherwise decided by Council); the French Authorities believed that the Committee must remain first and foremost a forum for the exchange of information drawn from special or privileged sources (particularly where the economies of the Eastern countries were concerned);
- (2) noted furthermore, as regards draft ED/EC/77/2 that comments would be submitted by the French Representative when this paper came before the Council;

(1) ED/EC/77/10(Revised), distributed on 2nd February, 1977

- (3) on the initiative of the Netherlands Representative, had a general exchange of views on this matter and noted the Chairman's reminder of the guidelines laid down by the Council for the declassification of the report on Soviet defence spending; noted the views expressed by the Netherlands and the German Representatives, in that order, who were in favour of more declassification while remaining conscious of the particular problems which this could pose for individual countries;
- (4) noted in this connection that the United States and German Representatives could agree to the three unclassified versions proposed at reference above whereas the Canadian Representative wished to have further time in order to obtain his Authorities' views on this matter;
- (5) agreed that unless objections were received by the International Staff before the next meeting, the unclassified version of the report on defence spending would be regarded as approved by the Committee (subject to the amendments adopted at the previous meeting) and forwarded to the Council in compliance with paragraph 72 of C-R(76)47.

IV. APPRECIATION OF THE ECONOMIC POSITION OF THE NATO AND THE WARSAW PACT COUNTRIES UP TO 1984

Documents: AC/127-WP/499
AC/127-WP/500

At the request of a number of delegations which had not yet received their instructions, the COMMITTEE:

- (1) agreed to defer discussion of the reference documents until the next meeting;
- (2) noted that if the reports were to be sent to the Defence Planning Committee in time, the Economic Committee's examination of them would have to be completed by its 17th February meeting at the latest.

V. TRADE BETWEEN THE NATO AND COMMUNIST COUNTRIES IN 1975
(Draft 13th Report to the Council)

Document: AC/127-WP/497

The COMMITTEE:

- (1) continued its examination of the above-mentioned draft report and noted that, generally speaking, it met with the approval of most of the Committee's members;
- (2) noted that the German Representative hoped to be able to make detailed comments on several sections of the document at the next meeting.

VI. EXCHANGES OF INFORMATION

(a) Soviet Union

The COMMITTEE noted the following contributions:

- (1) from the Canadian Delegation on
 - (i) the Soviet economy in 1976 (based on a report by the Canadian Embassy in Moscow);
 - (ii) the Soviet trade deficit during the first nine months of 1976;
- (2) from the United Kingdom Delegation on the Soviet economic situation in 1976 (based on a report by the United Kingdom Embassy in Moscow).

(b) Bulgaria

The COMMITTEE:

noted the distribution of a paper from the Canadian Delegation (based on a report from the Canadian Embassy's trade section in Vienna) on the continuing difficulty of obtaining access to post-CSCE Bulgarian trade statistics.

(c) Communist Country Activities in the Third World
(December 1976)

The COMMITTEE:

noted the distribution by the United Kingdom
Delegation of information on this subject.

(d) Egypt: Situation in the wake of the January
disturbances

The COMMITTEE:

noted a contribution by the Canadian
Representative based on a recent report
from the Canadian Embassy in Cairo.

(e) China: Economic situation and outlook at the
end of 1976

The COMMITTEE:

noted a contribution by the Italian
Delegation based on a report from the
Italian Embassy in Peking.

VII. NEXT MEETING

Thursday, 10th February, 1977 at 10.15 a.m.

NATO,
1110 Brussels.