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ORIGINAL: FRENCH  
19th September, 1974

POLADS(74)24MEMORANDUM

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 Tuesday 5th, to Friday, 8th November, 1974. It will be noted that in compliance with the decision of the Political Committee, the Experts will meet for four days only.

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 22nd October, 1974, 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

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Council will take note 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)32, dated 5th June, 1974, AC/127-WP/405, dated 24th July, 1974 and Corrigendum of 26th July, 1974, and Polads(74)12(Final) of 26th July, 1974 and Corrigendum of 31st July, 1974.

(Signed) J. de BEAUSSE

NATO,  
1110 Brussels.

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SUGGESTED OUTLINE FOR THE REPORT OF THE EXPERTS  
ON THE SOVIET UNION AND EASTERN EUROPE

I. SOVIET INTERNAL POLICY

- A. The balance of forces within the leadership.  
Mr. Brezhnev's personal position.
- B. The government and the dissidents; policy towards  
Jewish emigration.
- C. Economic problems:
  - the 1974 harvest;
  - rise in raw material prices and the prospects  
for developing Siberian mineral resources.

II. SOVIET EXTERNAL POLICY

- A. Effects of the improvement in the Soviet Union's  
balance of payments on its relation with the  
Western countries and the Warsaw Pact countries.
- B. East-West relations:
  - CSCE and MBFR;
  - Soviet Union and United States;
  - Soviet Union and Western Europe (attitude  
of the Socialist countries to European  
integration);
- C. Soviet Union and Eastern Europe:
  - ideological co-operation and inter-party  
relations;
  - prospects for a world conference of  
Communist and Workers' Parties;
  - prospects for a conference of the European  
Communist Parties.

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- D. Soviet policy in the Middle East:
- the Soviet Union and the Arab-Israeli conflict;
  - the Soviet Union and the Palestinians;
  - the reopening of the Suez Canal and the Soviet naval presence in the Mediterranean and the Indian Ocean.
- E. Soviet policy in Asia:
- relations with China;
  - relations with Japan;
  - Soviet strategy in the Indian sub-continent;
  - proposed collective security system in Asia.

III. THE SITUATION IN EASTERN EUROPE

- A. The situation in the GDR. Access to Berlin and the legal connection between the FRG and West Berlin.
- B. Rumania and the Warsaw Pact. Military transit through Rumania to Bulgaria and Soviet Balkan policy.
- C. Yugoslavia - effects of the rise in the costs of raw materials and energy on the economic situation.