

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

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH
11th October, 1971

POLADS(71)72

MEMORANDUM

To: Political Committee
From: Chairman of the Expert Group

EXPERT WORKING GROUP ON THE USSR AND EASTERN EUROPE

The Group will meet from Monday, 15th, to Friday, 19th November inclusive. The attached outline suggests a number of topics for consideration in national drafts and Group discussion but is intended to be neither exhaustive nor restrictive.

2. May I recall that at its meeting before last the Working Group reached a general agreement that:

- "(a) countries which usually present national contributions of considerable length should also try, if possible, to supply a summary of their reports, without however cutting down on their detailed main report;
- (b) other countries should try to make a contribution which could at least cover:
 - (i) their recent experience in respect of bilateral relations with the USSR and other Warsaw Pact powers, and
 - (ii) any special topics or areas they are in a position to cover."

It has been pointed out that a classification not higher than "NATO CONFIDENTIAL" enabled fuller use to be made of national contributions.

3. Where possible national contributions should be made available in 60 copies, double-spaced, typed on one side and with pages and paragraphs numbered. It would be helpful if these contributions could reach the Secretariat before the last week of October.

(Signed) W.M. NEWTON

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

SUGGESTED OUTLINE FOR THE WORKING GROUP OF EXPERTS
ON THE USSR AND EASTERN EUROPE

I. SUMMARY OF OUTLOOK AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS

An estimate of the main trends in the USSR and Eastern Europe to be expected over the next six months, and their policy implications for the Alliance.

II. SOVIET INTERNAL POLICY

With the 24th CPSU Congress behind it, the régime prepares to mark, next year, the 50th Anniversary of the formation of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

III. SOVIET EXTERNAL POLICY

A. Priorities

China is once again playing an active rôle in international affairs; at the same time, indications of an internal political struggle underline the importance of China as a major - and unpredictable - power factor in the world as seen from the Kremlin. Has preoccupation with China significantly influenced Soviet policies in other areas? What are Moscow's current priorities?

B. East-West Relations

Outlook for a successful conclusion of the Berlin negotiations, in the light of Soviet interest in early ratification of the German treaties and convening of a CES. Soviet intentions with regard to SALT and MBFR. How well is Moscow managing in its attempts to co-ordinate these separate but related objectives?

C. Soviet Policy in Other Areas of the World

Significance of the "friendship" treaties with the UAR and India. How far may these serve as models for agreements with other "non-aligneds"?

D. International Organizations

Soviet tactics in the UNGA and the CCD.

E. Soviet Relations with Eastern Europe

What were Soviet motivations in calling off the "war of nerves" in the Balkans? What has changed as a result of Brezhnev's visit to Yugoslavia, Hungary and Bulgaria? Has there been a change in the relations of the Communist régimes with the Vatican?

Other developments.

IV. THE SITUATION IN EASTERN EUROPE