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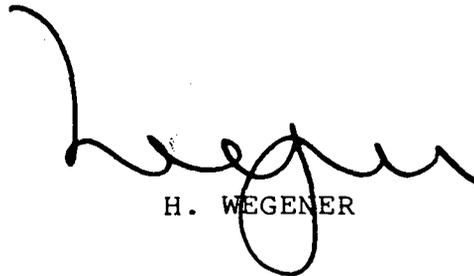
DPA(88)406

To: Director of the Private Office
From: ASG for Political Affairs
Subject: Political Committee discussion on Poland

We often talk about how NATO institutions should play their proper roles in dealing with political developments and, in that light, I want to comment on the deliberations in the Political Committee concerning the situation in Poland. On 28th April we decided immediately to call a special meeting of the Political Committee to review the situation and to exchange information. Although one delegation felt this was overly dramatising the situation, we met on 29th April and had an excellent exchange. We followed up that meeting with further exchanges at the regular meeting at the Political Committee on 5th May and again with an updated exchange on 17th May.

Missions here had effectively co-ordinated with embassies in Warsaw and with capitals to quickly evaluate the situation. Particularly relevant were views on how capitals hoped to deal with the issue in public statements.

This was a very successful exercise and what would be normal practice for the Committee during a developing crisis in Eastern Europe. If you agree, I think it would underline the importance of timely and adequate political consultations on such issues if the Secretary General were to briefly mention this at the next Permanent Representatives luncheon. Obviously, we continue to follow events in Poland and will keep you informed as circumstances require.



H. WEGENER