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1202.2/SHPPA/S18/80

10 December 1980

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE SECRETARY

SUBJECT: Poland - Precautionary Measures (M)

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1. (NC) There has been considerable discussion during the last ten days of the appropriate NATO military response to the Poland situation. I wish to summarize for your benefit the position that we have now arrived at.

2. (NS) On Tuesday, December 2nd, SACEUR discussed appropriate non-provocative, covert NATO military reactions with the SecGen in Brussels. Subsequently Permreps met and approved SACEUR's request to the Nations to provide increased intelligence on the situation.

3. (NS) On Friday, 5th December, SACEUR sent to the Chairman of the Military Committee a Memorandum, (attached at Annex A), amplifying the actions he had proposed to SecGen. The situation, and appropriate responses to it, was discussed by the Military Committee in CHODs session on 8th December, and by the DPC in ministerial session on 9th and 10th December.

4. (NS) As a result of these discussions, SACEUR has been given pre-delegated political agreement to the implementation at his discretion of Items (1), (2) and (3) of the "Actions Within ACE". He has also been given pre-delegated authority to implement such elements as he chooses of the first six of the eight MV measures

specified under Item (4) (VCA, VCC, VCD, VIA, VOA, VOJ), under the caveat he gave that he would issue specific guidance where necessary in the declaration messages, in order to avoid exceeding the covert level of implementation that was also given agreement to a request/to deploy AWACs at a time of choosing. Item (5), increase in AD readiness against the air threat

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situation so dictates, has not as yet been agreed, but it should be noted that SACEUR already has this authority, since these forces are under his operational command, and he has so advised Ministers and CMC.

5. (NS) Following these agreements, SACEUR has issued the following instructions:

- a. A situation centre is to be manned in the SHAPE WHQ on a 24 hr basis. E23.
- b. MSCs and PSCs are to similarly man Sit Cens in their primary WHQs. E23.
- c. MSCs/PSCs are to review all relevant contingency plans, particularly those related to air defence and a naval presence in the Baltic, but also including logistic, communications, movements, and alert and recall plans.

SHAPE has also instituted covert communications checks down to PSC level, avoiding:

- (1) Any deployment of signal units.
- (2) Any use of additional HF transmissions that might be intercepted.
- (3) Any use of additional PTT circuits.

N.B. These actions have thus far been limited to PSC level, and have been implemented by the issue of specific instructions and not the use of MV tri-graphs.

6. (NS) SACEUR has also requested the US to provide AWACS cover, and four aircraft are being deployed to Ramstein A.B. on 10th and 11th December.

7. (NS) Finally, SACEUR has issued clarification of the R of E:

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for NATO interceptors should WP fighters penetrate NATO airspace in hot pursuit of defecting aircraft. He has warned MSCs that he may find it necessary to increase the peacetime alert posture of AD fighter and SAM units at short notice, and he has called for information on the manning level and availability of air, ground and maritime forces, particularly over weekends and the Christmas/New Year period.

1 Annex  
A - Memo from SACEUR  
to Chairman MC

W.Y. SMITH  
GENERAL, USAF  
Chief of Staff

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Historical Office, OCOFS, SHAPE

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