

0030/SHCGS/S-2/80

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

15 DEC 1980

SUBJECT: Political Guidance re ACE Actions Concerning Polish Situation,
December 1980

1. Reference: Red Tab 1, MFR: "Discussion with SYG on Military Measures Associated with Soviet Intervention in Poland" dated 1 Dec 1980.
2. Following my discussion with SYG on 1 December 1980 (see ref.) the SYG called a meeting of the NAC/PS in late evening of 2 December to discuss those actions upon which I had requested guidance. I was queried by telephone by the US PERMREP if I would like to have predelegated authority to implement those actions after a Soviet intervention. I stated that I would prefer such predelegation if it were possible to obtain it. The SYG asked the PERMREPs to communicate my request to nations, seek national guidance and to be prepared to discuss the matter in the NAC/PS on 4 December.
3. Meantime, the MC/PS had developed and considered on late evening of 2 December a paper concerning precautionary and preparatory actions relative to the Polish situation. On 3 December the MC/PS agreed the paper at Red Tab 2, MCM-EKD-84-80.
4. As a result of the NAC/PS Session on 4 December I was predelegated authority to implement measures (1) through (3) of "Actions within ACE" (see White Tab C of reference) after a Soviet intervention. At Red Tab 3 is written confirmation of such predelegation. NAC/PS guidance confirmed that any action to be taken should be covert, in so far as possible.
5. On 5 and 6 December the MC/PS met to consider further measures and on the 6th agreed and recommended to the NAC/PS that SACEUR should be authorized to request the deployment of AWACS aircraft to ACE to assist in intelligence collection/air defense. (See "Requests to Nations" at White Tab G of reference).
6. At MC/CS Sessions on 8 December, Polish situation and proposed SACEUR measures were described extensively. I advised the CHOD's of proposed rules of engagement re air defense and also gave them some ideas of the visibility of some Military Vigilance measures. (See White Tab B² of ref.)
7. On 8 December the NAC/PS met at 1130 hours (with CHOD's present) to discuss SACEUR's request for guidance on measures (White Tab C of reference). Discussion turned to predelegation to SACEUR before a Soviet intervention in Poland. NAC/PS met again at 1700 hours on 8 December (with CHOD's and MNC's present) and agreed to predelegate to SACEUR, before Soviet intervention, measures (1), (2), (3) of "Actions within ACE" and measure (2) of "Requests to Nations" (AWACS deployment). (See White Tab C of reference).

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By Dr. S. W. Redlow Date 25 Feb 2011
Historical Office, OCOFS, SHAPE

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SECRETARY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
NS DIVISION CONTROL NO.
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8. At Red Tab 4 is SACEUR message to JCS requesting deployment of AWACS aircraft. (SACEUR 090857Z Dec 80). At Red Tab 5 is JCS response (JCS 092310Z Dec 80).

9. On the morning of 9 December during a "super" restricted session of the DPC/MS, SACEUR measures were again discussed. It was agreed that SACEUR measure (4) under "Actions within ACE" (White Tab C of Ref.) should also be predelegated for SACEUR's implementation before Soviet intervention providing that (1) the Military Vigilance measures would be restricted to the first six listed under paragraph 4 of Red Tab 6, "Amplification of Actions Proposed by SACEUR as Pertinent Responses to Soviet Intervention in Poland" and (2) no implementing actions would be taken below Corps level. (Denmark was without instructions and withheld agreement until 1300 hours on 9 December.) I advised DPC/MS of my request to JCS for AWACS deployment and reviewed for them our plans for guidance to Commanders concerning "Air Defense Reaction to Polish Situation." (See para 4 of Red Tab 7, SACEUR message 091715Z Dec 80, same subject). SACEUR measure (5) re "Considering increasing the readiness of ACE air defense..." was not agreed by GE and NL. However, I advised the DPC/MS that as operational commander I had the authority to increase the readiness status of the air defense units assigned to me and I would do so if circumstances warranted, advising the DPC beforehand if time permitted.

10. At Red Tab 8 is guidance message sent to MSC's. (SACEUR message, 091800Z Dec 80).

11. At DPC/MS meeting on morning of 10 December, GE MOD raised his concern about automaticity of implementation of all actions that come under various MV measures, referring specifically to high visibility of some actions under the 6 measures authorized under (4) of SACEUR's request for "Actions within ACE" (see White Tab C of reference). I assured the DPC/MS that I did not plan to direct commanders to implement, say, "MV measures VCA, etc," but rather would issue specific guidance in the declaration messages in order to avoid exceeding the guidance that actions be covert. I pointed out that my guidance from the DPC contained two constraints: (1) all actions were to be covert (with the AWACS deployment being carried as another in a series of "Sentry Creek" exercises) and (2) that no actions were to be taken below corps level. I assured MOD Apel that I intended to comply with this guidance. (I read to the DPC/MS the language of guidance message, Tab 8). MOD Apel declared he was satisfied.

12. In response to my request for written confirmation of measures I was authorized to take prior to a Soviet intervention, the SYG provided the memo at Red Tab 9.

13. At Red Tab 10 is the statement to the press, concerning SACEUR actions, agreed by the DPC/MS.

14. At Red Tab 11 is SECDEF Message, 100053Z Dec 80 announcing the deployment of AWACS.

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15. During the NAC and DPC meetings on 8 and 9 December, reference was made by some PERMREPs that to permit the normal, full-scale Christmas leaves for NATO forces would reflect a "business-as-usual" stance on NATO's part. I was asked during the NAC/PS on the evening of 8 December if I intended to curtail leaves and passes. I pointed out that I had authority to do so only in ACE headquarters and in the air defense units. Only upon implementation of certain Simple Alert measures could I take such action with respect to all other forces. In order to ensure that there was no misunderstanding about this matter, I dispatched to the SYG and the CMC the SACEUR message 131345Z Dec 80 at Red Tab 12.



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