

NATO SECRET

NORTH ATLANTIC MILITARY COMMITTEE
COMITE MILITAIRE DE L'ATLANTIQUE NORD



007

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

Record - MC-CBX-48-80 (Private Session)

23 December 1980

IMMEDIATE

P R I V A T E S E S S I O N

48TH MEETING OF THE MILITARY COMMITTEE IN 1980

Held on Thursday, 18 December 1980 in the Situation
Centre (Presentation Room), NATO Headquarters
Brussels, Belgium

PRESENT

Chairman: Admiral R.H. Falls

Belgium: Lieutenant General Y. Dedeurwaerder
Canada: Lieutenant General R. Gutknecht
Denmark: Lieutenant General P.O.W. Thorsen
Germany: Lieutenant General E.D. Bernhard
Greece: Lieutenant General E. Papaefstathiou
Italy: Vice Admiral G. Fantoni
Luxembourg: Colonel P. Bergem
Netherlands: Lieutenant General J.C. Zoutenbier
Norway: Lieutenant Colonel G. Kristiansen
Portugal: Lieutenant General J. Ferreira Valente
Turkey: Vice Admiral S. Ergin
United Kingdom: Admiral Sir Anthony Morton
United States: General R.L. Lawson

Deputy Chairman: Lieutenant General Lincoln D. Faurer

Director, IMS Air Marshal Sir Alan Davies


J.D. SPOTTISWOOD
Air Commodore, RAF
Secretary, IMS

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N A T O S E C R E T
P E R S O N A L A N D C O N F I D E N T I A L

C O N T E N T S

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P E R S O N A L A N D C O N F I D E N T I A L

N A T O S E C R E T

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Item 2 ANY OTHER BUSINESS (NU)

- A. OPTIONS FOR NATO MILITARY MEASURES WHICH MAY BE CONSIDERED WHEN WARNING HAS BEEN RECEIVED OF IMMINENT SOVIET INTERVENTION IN POLAND, OR THE FACT OF INTERVENTION BECOMES APPARENT (NS)

The German Member drew attention to a recently agreed Military Committee Memorandum(2) to which, he pointed out, his Authorities had reluctantly agreed. He said that whilst the new text of paragraph 2 of the Memorandum provided that the application of the Alert System was not intended for the Military Measures described in the paper, nevertheless both the Matrix and the Annex of the paper were in conflict with the language used in paragraph 2. He also pointed out that the footnote to the Matrix, on page 4 of the Memorandum, could be seen only in the context of an application of the Alert System and was therefore inappropriate in that form to the document.

(1) MC 117/1(Final), 23 May 73
(2) MCM-EKD-86-80, 17 Dec 80 (NS)

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The German Member explained that his Authorities were concerned to ensure that the content and use of the Alert System was confined strictly to the purpose for which it was created, i.e. as an instrument of the Major NATO Commanders in the event of a direct threat to NATO. The Alert System, he emphasised, enabled them to act without delay, in a purposeful manner and without leaving any doubt as to its implementation; in that way the NATO Forces would be able to establish their defence readiness in accordance with the situation. He stressed that neither these conditions nor the purposes for which the Alert System was designed existed at this stage.

Finally, the German Member pointed out that the precautionary measures which had already been conceded to SACEUR had not been transferred within the framework of the Alert System. This had been made clear to SACEUR by the German Minister of Defence at the meeting of the Defence Planning Committee on 10 December 1980, and he understood that SHAPE was dealing with the implementation of the measures on that basis. For all these reasons, the German Member urged that a Corrigendum to the document(1) be prepared in accordance with the views of his Authorities(2).

In the subsequent discussion of the German Member's proposal, it was pointed out that the document(1) had already been placed before Ambassadors, principally as an expression of Military Committee advice, for discussion should a deterioration in the situation in Poland warrant it, where the advice would be fully discussed by the Political Authorities before implementation. In these circumstances, some Members took the view that a Corrigendum would be both undesirable and unnecessary. Finally, it was agreed that a Staff level meeting would be convened to consider the proposal of the German Member.

THE COMMITTEE TOOK NOTE.

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- (1) MCM-EKD-86-80, 17 Dec 80 (NS)
(2) Subsequently withdrawn by GeM 176/80 NS, 22 Dec 80

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