



IMMEDIATE

Record - MC-CBX-44-80 (Restricted Session)

5 January 1981

S U M M A R Y R E C O R D

44TH MEETING OF THE MILITARY COMMITTEE IN 1980

Held on Thursday, 4 December 1980 at 1415 hours
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:	Brigadier General W. Malecha
Greece:	Lieutenant General E. Papaefstathiou
Italy:	Vice Admiral G. Fantoni
Luxembourg:	Colonel B. Bergem
Netherlands:	Lieutenant General J.C. Zoutenbier
Norway:	Major General Ole Miøen
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

ALSO PRESENT

French Military Mission:	Général de Corps d'Armée P. Crousillac
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J.D. Spottiswood
 J.D. SPOTTISWOOD
 Air Commodore, RAF
 Secretary, IMS

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-1- This document consists of five pages.

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SECRETARY'S NOTE: This is not a summary record, nor is chronological sequence always followed. It is intended as a record of the broad trend of the Committee's discussion and all statements have not necessarily been attributed unless germane to the main thrust of the discussion.

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Item 1 PREPARATION OF MILITARY ADVICE ON THE
SITUATION IN POLAND (NS)

The Chairman reported to the Committee the results of a meeting of the Permanent Representatives which he had attended that morning. The salient points of that meeting were:-

- As advised by the Secretary General, the Chairman had taken with him sufficient copies of the paper containing the Military Committee's preliminary advice(1); these had been distributed during the meeting.
- He had informed the Council that he himself was not convinced that it was right for SACEUR to be delegated the authority to call for AWACS support as, time permitting, he considered the Military Committee should advise on the deployment of these aircraft.
- He had informed the Council that he was also not yet fully convinced of the necessity to keep in being the Standing Naval Forces and he had asked Permanent Representatives to address that point during the meeting but they had not done so.
- SACLANT's concern that STANAVFORLANT use of Portsmouth might be construed as an overt act had not been shared by the Secretary General or by Permanent Representatives.
- The Secretary General had not been able to obtain a consensus on SACEUR's proposals due to reservations expressed by certain countries most of which did not agree to overt measures being taken prior to an invasion. It seemed probable, however, that there would be a consensus on at least some of the proposals after further discussion.

The United Kingdom Member pointed out that there were graver issues to be considered than keeping the Standing Naval Forces in being. Despite the speed with which the situation was developing, he was concerned that the Committee had forwarded its military advice to the Secretary General and had requested political guidance but that neither had yet been considered formally by the Permanent Representatives. Therefore he proposed that a meeting of Permanent Representatives with their

(1) MCM-EKD-84-80, 4 Dec 80 (NS)

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Military Advisers should be convened so that the Military Committee memorandum and associated problems could be discussed. He considered that the Committee would be failing in its duty to those it represented, if it did not ensure that the paper was formally tabled. He suggested that certain of his colleagues might wish to take up the constitutional position with the Secretary General if the political guidance which was being sought was not forthcoming. The Chairman agreed to discuss the matter with the Secretary General.

The United States Member provided an intelligence update on the USSR/Polish situation.

The Norwegian Member said he supported the views of the United Kingdom and United States Members.

The Belgian Member also supported the views of the United Kingdom and United States Members and stressed how important it was for the Political Authorities to decide whether or not they were able to agree with the Committee's recommendations.

The Netherlands Member said that the delay was probably being caused by the need for Ambassadors to take instructions from capitals and it might therefore take them another day to reach a decision.

The German Member supported the Netherlands Member, adding that he would have to obtain further guidance from his Authorities on some of the measures the Committee had already recommended.

The Danish Member said that his Authorities had given unrestricted agreement to SACEUR's requests. He had not considered that it was necessary to obtain approval for the paper from his capital as it had been intended as advice to the Ambassadors. Thus he felt that the Council should be allowed a reasonable period to receive instructions from capitals and to study the paper before it would be right to take issue on the matter.

The Greek Member pointed out that it was only preliminary advice which had been formulated and, because the situation had evolved so rapidly, time was needed for further consideration.

The Turkish Member said that his Authorities agreed with the paper supporting SACEUR's precautionary measures and recommended that they should be adopted before rather than after an invasion.

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SACLANTREPEUR then presented the rationale for STANAVFORLANT being kept in being for operations other than in the Baltic and advised that it would be prudent to have the Standing Naval Forces available to conduct surveillance and to show NATO's readiness and solidarity. This led to further discussion in which the Chairman and the United States Member participated during which the latter suggested that a brief should be prepared on the issues involved which affected the Standing Naval Forces.

The Chairman said that he would do his best to ensure that the Secretary General set a new date for discussion on the Committee's recommendations as SACEUR deserved a reply to his proposals and SACLANT and CINCHAN required further guidance. In view of the political sensitivity of adopting the AWACS and Standing Naval Forces measures, separate papers on these should be drafted by the IMS in amplification of the existing recommendations.

THE COMMITTEE AGREED.

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