



Record - MC-CBX-46-80 (Restricted Session)

5 January 1981

IMMEDIATE

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

46TH MEETING OF THE MILITARY COMMITTEE IN 1980

Held on Wednesday, 10 December 1980 at 1500 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:	Lieutenant General E.D. Bernhard
Greece:	Lieutenant General E. Papaefstathiou
Italy:	Briqadier General C. Crucilla
Luxembourg:	Colonel P. Bergem
Netherlands:	Lieutenant General J.C. Zoutenbier
Norway:	Major General Ole Mißen
Portugal:	Lieutenant General J. Ferreira Valente
Turkey:	Vice Admiral S. Erqin
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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Item 1 PRELIMINARY APPRECIATION OF POSSIBLE NATO PRECAUTIONARY AND PREPARATORY ACTIONS IN RELATION TO THE SITUATION IN EASTERN EUROPE AND ITS FURTHER DEVELOPMENT (NS)

The Assistant Director, IMS, Intelligence Division updated the Military Committee on the situation in and around Poland.

The United States Member provided additional information. In reply to a question raised by the Danish Member the Assistant Director, IMS, Intelligence Division said that the build-up of Warsaw Pact Forces in areas more distant from Poland might be concerned with the provision of ungraded second echelon forces.

The Chairman updated Members on decisions taken by the DPC in Ministerial Session on SACEUR's requested measures and invited attention to the paper(1) before them which had originated from a proposal made by the Military Committee in Chiefs of Staff Session. The paper set out in matrix form military options available to the Alliance, grading in the visibility of each option as low/medium or high in the context of a pre or post invasion situation. He then asked Members for general comments on the paper.

The German Member thought that the paper provided an excellent approach and a most useful list of options which might be discussed in the event of a Soviet intervention. He proposed certain amendments to the format of the matrix and emphasised, that in his view, Members would need guidance from capitals prior to detailed discussion of the paper since national evaluations on the categorisation of measures might differ significantly.

The Chairman noted the proposal of his German colleague and agreed that ideally, time was necessary to allow the paper to be considered in capitals. He pointed out, however, that the paper aimed to provide a series of options for consideration by the Political Authorities should the situation in Poland worsen suddenly.

The United Kingdom Member stressed that it was his understanding that at this stage, the paper aimed only to set out preliminary military ideas for possible NATO response in the event of the imminence of a Soviet invasion. He proposed that the levels of response should be defined more clearly and emphasised his understanding that Ministers would not want any NATO military action to be implemented before a Soviet intervention in Poland

The Chairman agreed that Ministers would not accept any additional military action other than those already agreed as they intended that actions should be kept on a political level. As far as the matrix of the paper was concerned, the Chairman pointed out that it was the intention of the originators to provide a range of possible responses in a specific order.

(1) IMSWM-EKD-290-80, 10 Dec 80 (NS)

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The Norwegian Member proposed that the Chairman be authorised to use the working paper(1) in case of an urgent requirement for military advice in the immediate future. In the meantime staffs would refine the paper in co-operation with MNCs and Capitals.

The Chairman thanked the Norwegian Member for his proposal, for which he noted a consensus. He agreed that the present paper would not be distributed outside the Military Committee, but would be retained for use in an emergency. In the meantime staffs would seek to improve the paper, in accord with national consent, for subsequent consideration by the Military Committee.

THE COMMITTEE TOOK NOTE.

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