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SUPREME HEADQUARTERS ALLIED POWERS EUROPE  
GRAND QUARTIER GENERAL DES PUISSANCES ALLIEES EN EUROPE  
BELGIUM

1202.2/SHPPLC/S376/80

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6 January 1981

THRU: Executive Officer, National Military Representatives  
Supreme Allied Headquarters Europe, Belgium

TO: SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Poland (NU)

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IAW SHAPE 3200/SHGS/91, 7 NOV 91  
By ME 100000 Date 11.3.96  
Historical Section, OSECCOS, SHAPE

- REFERENCES:
- a. GE NMR SHAPE Memo, Military Measures Taken in Connection with the Situation in Poland, dtd 19 Dec 80
  - b. SHAPE Memo 1202.2/SHPPA/S18/80, Poland - Precautionary Measures, dtd 11 Dec 80
  - c. NATO IMS Memo MCM-EKD-86-80, 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), dtd 17 Dec 80

1. (NC) In response to memorandum at reference a, I would like to bring you up to date on actions relating to the Polish situation by using as a start point the briefing which I presented to the NMRs on 10 December 1980. At that briefing I described the actions which SACEUR had already taken and on 11 December 1980 I provided the EXNMR with reference b in the event that any of the NMRs wished to have information from the briefing in written form. You will note by the distribution list below that I am directing a copy of this letter to all NMRs to continue with SHAPE policy of keeping all of the national representatives up to date on this matter.

2. (NS) Since your last briefing, SHAPE staff action has continued but SACEUR has not issued further directives to his subordinate commands. Some of the more significant items dealt with by staff action include:

a. The clarification of problems dealing with the limitation of national air forces which may intercept intruding aircraft within Germany's air space.

b. Participation in the preparation of a study by the IMS dealing with military options for NATO in the event of imminent or actual Soviet intervention into Poland. This study, reference c, has been agreed by the MC and Milreps have copies.

c. A complete analysis of the measures of Military Vigilance and Simple Alert to determine which of these might be appropriate to changing circumstances in the Polish situation, particularly in the event that a more direct threat to NATO developed.

d. The examination of possible conditions warranting consideration of the deployment of certain forces as a demonstration of NATO resolve and solidarity, i.e. the AMF(A), land and air reconnaissance forces, and on-call naval forces.

3. (NC) You may appreciate from the foregoing that consideration has been directed to a range of possibilities given various possible developments in the Warsaw Pact. Staff studies will continue but SACEUR has not taken any decisions on further actions. It should be noted that, time permitting, SACEUR intends to consult with political authorities at Evere before implementing further decisions. NMRs also can expect to be advised at the appropriate time of any follow-on actions.

SECRETARY OF THE STAFF

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4. (NC) You may wish to know that the deployment of the US AWACS aircraft and supporting tankers took place promptly as exercise CREEK SENTRY. The exercise missions are being conducted efficiently, providing useful information as well as excellent training for NADGE and air defence forces in the Central Region. Additionally, you should be aware that SACLANT and CINCHAN have placed STANAVFORLANT and STANAVFORCHAN at 47 and 48 hrs notice to sail respectively until both forces reassemble in mid-January.

5. (NR) I appreciate your concern in keeping abreast of developments and corresponding actions which may be taken relative to the Polish situation. You may rest assured that significant information will be passed to you as and when decisions are taken.

FOR THE SUPREME ALLIED COMMANDER, EUROPE:

  
W. Y. SMITH  
General, USAF  
Chief of Staff

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NAW SHAPE, 3050/SHCS/91, 7 NOV 91  
By Dr. Gregory Pedlow Date 25 Feb 2011  
Historical Office, OCOFS, SHAPE

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