

N A T O     S E C R E T

Reg. PA  
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MEETING OF THE COUNCIL ON WEDNESDAY, 8TH JULY, 1981

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Brief for the Chairman

P. A. Sub - Registry  
File No 19-10-01 (13/00)

ITEM II : POLAND

Background

At its meeting on 10th June, the Council requested the Military Committee to prepare a military appreciation on the current situation in Poland. The response to this request is document CMCN-11-81 dated 30th June, 1981 submitted by the Chairman of the Military Committee.

The document reviews the availability of the Soviet and East European forces of the Warsaw Pact and their various states of readiness. Key findings in the document are as follows:

"The state of overall readiness has remained normal and, upon analysis, it is doubtful whether their (the Warsaw Pact) potential "combat efficiency" is any different than it would be in normal times".

"The 24 (Soviet) Category C units, some of which would be needed for a full-scale invasion would require 2-3 weeks (to achieve an appropriate level of readiness for intervention)".

"Troop morale in Category A units is not now, or expected to be in the future, a limiting factor".

"Mobilization of reservists required to bring Category B and C units up to strength could introduce some local loss of efficiency and lower morale, but these elements would be unlikely to degrade seriously the overall effectiveness of any intervention".

"It is expected that some Non-Soviet Warsaw Pact forces would be employed to give any intervention an appearance of Warsaw Pact solidarity".

"The Soviets have a number of options for military intervention in Poland, as well as adequate resources to support any option they may select".

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"To initiate a military intervention into Poland, the necessary preparation time could range anywhere from 24 hours to 3 weeks, depending upon (the specific purpose and plan of the intervention forces)".

You may wish to say:

Members of the Council will have before them document CMCM-11-81 of 30th June, 1981 entitled "Military Appreciation on the Current Situation in Poland" prepared at its request by the Military Committee.

The document pays particular attention to the question of readiness of Soviet and other Warsaw Pact forces for an intervention and analyses at some length the question of warning time. We can perhaps take some small comfort in the Military Committee judgement that, and I quote "despite imposition of rigorous (Warsaw Pact) security measures, some preparation actions would be expected to provide an advance warning of such an intervention and would provide, as in the past, time for NATO political reaction to take place". Of course, in this particular case, NATO action will not occur until after the event.

I now give the floor to Admiral Falls, Chairman of the Military Committee to introduce his report.