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NORTH ATLANTIC MILITARY COMMITTEE
COMITE MILITAIRE DE L'ATLANTIQUE NORD

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Record - MC-CBX-52-81 (Restricted Session)

6 January 1982

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

52ND MEETING OF THE MILITARY COMMITTEE IN 1981

Held on Monday, 14 December 1981, at 1130 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:	Vice Admiral G. Fantoni
Luxembourg:	Colonel P. Bergem
Netherlands:	Lieutenant General J.C. Zoutenbier
Norway:	Major General O. Mißen
Portugal:	General P.A.G. Cardoso
Turkey:	Vice Admiral S. Ergin
United Kingdom:	Admiral Sir Anthony Morton
United States:	Brigadier General D.O. Aldridge
Deputy Chairman:	Lieutenant General Sinclair L. Melner
Acting Director, IMS:	Rear Admiral H.J. Uurbanus

ALSO PRESENT

French Military Mission:	Général de Division O. Le Taillandier de Gabory
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(Signature)
O.D. SPOTTISWOOD
Air Commodore, RAF
Secretary, IMS

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RESTRICTED SESSION

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Item 1 BRIEFING ON THE CURRENT SITUATION IN AND AROUND POLAND (NR)

Colonel Nohr briefed the Military Committee.

The Danish Member provided additional intelligence and reported that his nation had increased naval and air surveillance in the Baltic and border areas. He said more Danish ships were on their way to the waters around BORNHOLM and that all their naval units were in a high state of readiness.

The United States Member said that the Soviets had not increased activity along the Polish border.

The Canadian Member referred to previous briefings by the Intelligence Division, IMS wherein the effectiveness and reliability of the Polish armed forces, if used in internal security tasks, were questioned. He asked for an updated assessment.

The Briefer replied that two elite units had been employed, 7th Sea Landing Division and an airborne division from KRAKOW and it appeared that the entire operation had been well planned and executed but he could not provide a current assessment of reliability.

The German Member said his intelligence personnel were striving to identify the Polish units being used and observing the Soviet forces in Poland and there were no indications that Soviet forces were involved.

The Netherlands Member asked if declaring martial law on Sunday was advantageous for military as well as political reasons.

The Chairman said he thought the timing of the declaration of martial law was done to reduce conflict with workers, most of whom would have been away from work on Saturday night and Sunday.

The United Kingdom Member said that the raid on the RADOM tapes was probably used as a pretext to provide an element of legitimacy to the declaration of martial law. He asked SACEUREP to provide the views of SACEUR on the Polish situation.

SACEUREP said that a similar intelligence briefing had been provided at SHAPE that day and the conclusion had been drawn that there was insufficient information available for SACEUR to propose any measures. He reminded Members that conditions were different to those which existed when SACEUR had proposed certain measures the previous years. He said that last year the immediate reaction

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of the Soviet Union was uncertain but it did not appear that they would now interfere in Poland within a short period of time.

The Chairman, in summing up, said that in view of all the planning which had taken place in recent months, he was sure that both the Military Committee and the Political Authorities were well prepared to react appropriately to developments in Poland.

THE COMMITTEE TOOK NOTE.

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