

30th November 1983

19-10-01  
Poland

REF: RSQS(83)27

To: Director and Deputy ASG/Political Affairs  
From: Head, RSQS  
Subject: POLAND

During Council examination today of the report of the Expert Working Group on the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe the UK Representative proposed that the Political Committee be mandated to prepare a study of the present situation in Poland and likely future trends. He suggested that preparation of the paper should be so timed as to permit the Political Committee to take advantage of the presence in Brussels of East European experts from capitals for the next Expert Group meeting in the Spring of 1984. The Political Committee should, he said, ensure that the paper was ready in time for the Spring Ministerial meeting.

2. This proposal was supported by the Canadian Permanent Representative; no other member of the Council addressed the idea. The Secretary General, summing up discussion of the Expert Group's report, stated that the study would be carried out as Sir John Graham had suggested.

3. The subject of Poland will no doubt be among those addressed by Ministers next week. I imagine that there will be no objection to the UK proposal.

4. I suggest that you might refer to this at next week's POLADS meeting, offering to circulate a draft outline of the study to the Political Committee on Tuesday 13th December. The further timetable of work, which could also be distributed on 13th December, might appear as follows :

- 1. Agreement on outline . . . . . 10 January
- 2. Receipt of national contributions . . . . . 14 February (a)
- 3. Circulation of first draft . . . . . 12 March
- 4. Political Committee, reinforced by experts, examines draft . . . . . 27 March (b)
- 5. Further meetings of POLADS to examine redrafts . . . . . April
- 6. Agreement of study . . . . . 2 May
- 7. Circulation to capitals . . . . . 14 May
- 8. Examination by Council . . . . . 27 May
- 9. Submission to Ministers . . . . . June

(a) Date suggested to ensure that contributions are received before HILEX II, during which the IS would prepare the first draft : the calendar of other Expert Group meetings precludes any other timetable.

(b) Soviet Union and East European experts scheduled to meet 28-30 March.

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