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Don Joseph,

At today's Permanent Representatives' lunch I reported that my Canadian and Netherlands colleagues and I had met the Australian and New Zealand Ambassadors this morning in order to carry out the next stage of consultation on contingency planning for Poland in accordance with the procedures approved by the Council.

Ambassador Fernandez told us that his authorities were grateful for the arrangements proposed and looked forward to having valuable exchanges in accordance with them. He had no objection to Australian participation in these arrangements being made known to Japan and Spain. He made it clear that Australian acceptance of the procedures for contacts at official level was without prejudice to their wish to find a more satisfactory forum for Ministerial consultation. In the event of Soviet intervention in Poland, the Australian Government hoped they would be able to participate fully and directly in Ministerial-level consultations leading to decisions. With this in mind, Ambassador Fernandez said that in considering its response to Soviet intervention in Poland, Australia would be influenced by the reactions of Australia's major Western partners and would wish to support a range of political and diplomatic activity in condemnation of Soviet behaviour. With regard to economic measures, Australia's decisions would be influenced by the proposed responses of other Western countries.

Ambassador McArthur said that his authorities also accepted the procedures adopted by the Council, on the understanding that this implied no commitment on the part of the New Zealand Government to undertake any of the measures being discussed in NATO. They regarded the question of consultations at Ministerial level as a separate issue. They had no objection to the Japanese authorities being told of New Zealand's participation in these arrangements. Ambassador McArthur emphasised the difficulties which any further restrictions on New Zealand's agricultural exports to the Soviet Union, beyond those imposed following the Soviet invasion of

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Afghanistan, would present. Finally he emphasised his understanding that the procedures agreed by the Council were not regarded as a substitute for the continuation of normal bilateral exchanges.

My Canadian and Netherlands colleagues and I then went through the list of "possible political actions" and "possible economic actions" in Section III of the Council report (PO(80)133(second revise)). In answer to questions we clarified the meaning and implications of certain of the measures and we summarised the preamble to Section III and the "chapeau" to Part B.

This briefing was given orally and no paper was handed over, and we reiterated the importance that the Council attached to maintaining strict secrecy for all the information given. We also made it clear that the list of measures we had provided was a catalogue for Ministers' use which was not necessarily exhaustive and did not imply any commitment on the part of any of our Governments to take the measures included in it. Finally, we said that we would be glad to have in due course the reactions of the Australian and New Zealand authorities.

I am sending copies of this letter to our colleagues on the Council and to the Chairman of the Military Committee.

Yours sincerely

Clive

Clive Rose