

Poland ✓

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UNITED KINGDOM PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
ON THE NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL
OTAN/NATO
1110 BRUSSELS
TELEPHONE 241.01.15
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Reg PA

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Dr J M A H Luns GCMG CH
Secretary General
NATO

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Sen Joseph.

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1. Following our meeting with the Australian and New Zealand Ambassadors on 17 March (a report of which I sent to you in my letter of 17 March) Ambassador Halstead and I had further meetings with Ambassadors Fernandez and McArthur on 9 and 10 April. Ambassador Barkman was unfortunately unable to be present at these meetings. Their purpose was to enable us to receive the reactions of the Australian and New Zealand authorities to the contingency measures which had been relayed to them following the meeting on 17 March.

2. Ambassador Fernandez reported that the views he had been authorised to express were based on discussions at Senior Official level in Canberra and that, at this stage, Australian Ministers had not been consulted in detail. Ambassador McArthur made it clear that he was expressing the New Zealand Government's considered position. For ease of reporting, we have collated the comments under each major item listed in PO/80/133(Final) in the enclosed paper.

3. Both Ambassadors asked a number of questions, most of which we were able to answer by reference to PO/80/133. This applies, for example, to the Australian questions referred to under Section III(1) - the export embargo - of the enclosed paper.

4. At the conclusion of the second meeting on 10 April, we identified the following as being the main points raised by the Australians and New Zealanders which will require further consideration:-

(1) The proposal for an embargo on imports from the Soviet Union. This was a point to which the Australian authorities attach considerable importance and they see it as complementing the embargo on exports.

/(2) Restrictions

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(2) Restrictions on trade in primary commodities.

This relates principally to the proposed ban on the export of agricultural products, specifically grain sales. You will know from my report of our earlier meeting that such a ban would present serious problems for New Zealand and this has now been elaborated in the letter from the New Zealand Embassy circulated by Ambassador Van Ussel on 10 April. The Australians also have doubts about the feasibility of imposing and monitoring such a ban.

(3) The possibility of circumvention of restrictions through non-participating countries. This applies especially to primary commodities, but also to exports of industrial goods. The concern is obviously not confined to member countries of the Warsaw Pact.

(4) Financing of credits for trade with Warsaw Pact countries. The Australian Ambassador asked for NATO's assessment of the scope for Warsaw Pact countries to change the basis of financing trade in order to overcome problems which would arise from the withdrawal of official credits and the probable resulting refusal of trading banks to extend credit facilities.

(5) Action in the field of energy. The Australian Ambassador asked whether the European members of NATO had given any indication that they could support bans and limitations of their energy imports from Eastern Europe.

(6) Definition of contracts. Both Australia and New Zealand would be interested in knowing how Alliance Governments intend to define existing contracts for the purpose of any export embargo.

5. Ambassador Halstead and I undertook to bring these questions especially to the attention of the Council and to let the Australian and New Zealand Ambassadors know the Council's comments on them in due course. Apart from discussion of the contingency measures, the two Ambassadors took the opportunity of informing Ambassador Halstead and myself that their Governments welcomed the Belgian proposal for a meeting under the Chairmanship of Mr Nothomb at which Foreign Ministers from NATO and non-NATO countries would attend. They understood that the intention was to hold this meeting during the course of NATO ministerial consultations in Brussels immediately following any Soviet intervention in Poland.

/6. I am sending



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

Yours sincerely

Clive Rose

Clive Rose

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