



ORGANISATION DU TRAITE DE L'ATLANTIQUE NORD

NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION

N A T O C O N F I D E N T I A L

1110 - BRUXELLES 23rd September

1980

REF : PR(80)52

To : Secretary General
c.c. : Deputy Secretary General
ASG, Political Affairs
From : Executive Secretary

Summary Record of a Private Meeting of the Council
on Friday, 19th September 1980 at 5.30 p.m.

Chairman : Ambassádor A. SVART
Permanent Representative of Denmark,
Dean of the Council

I. SOVIET MILITARY ACTIVITY AROUND POLAND

T. OZÇERI

cc: Mr. OLS

N A T O C O N F I D E N T I A L

TEL 241 00 40 - 241 44 00 - 241 44 90 TELEX 23-867

I. SOVIET MILITARY ACTIVITY AROUND POLAND

1. The UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE, upon whose request the meeting was convened, informed the Council that as reported by the Boston Globe and the Washington Star the previous day, there were increasing possibilities that the Soviet forces might hold a large manoeuvre in areas to the East of Poland. Indeed, five Soviet divisions in three military districts adjacent to Poland (i.e. Baltic, Carpathian and Belorussian) had deployed from their garrisons. There was also some evidence of limited mobilisation. The preparations observed pointed towards a large coordinated exercise. Although this military activity was compatible with the annual Soviet exercises cycle it could nevertheless result in the creation of a large force which would be necessary if the Soviets were to decide to invade Poland. The present attitude of the Soviet leadership towards the new Polish Party leader Kania appeared to be forthcoming and a Soviet military move against Poland was not considered to be imminent. The US Authorities continued to monitor developments and their evaluations ; they would inform Allies if new developments were to take place.

The United States Representative also requested that the confidentiality of the foregoing information be strictly protected.

2. In response to questions from various members of the Council, the UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE and the DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF THE MILITARY COMMITTEE provided the following additional information :

- the unannounced nature of the Soviet troop mobilization constituted an ominous development ;
- Soviet military activity could also be aimed at pressuring the Polish leadership to stand firm against demands by the strikers.

3. The CHAIRMAN adjourned the meeting by requesting that even the fact that the Council had met "on" the matter in question should not be divulged to the Press.