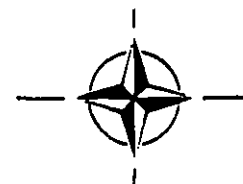




NORTH ATLANTIC MILITARY COMMITTEE
COMITE MILITAIRE DE L'ATLANTIQUE NORD



NATO CONFIDENTIAL

IMSM-CBX- 295-81

26 May 1981

MEMORANDUM FOR THE MEMBERS OF THE MILITARY COMMITTEE
THE CHIEF, FRENCH MILITARY MISSION

SUBJECT: Presentation by SACEUR on AEW&C Support
to the 76th MC/CS meeting on 11 May 1981 (NR)

Reference: Record - MC/CS-CBX-76(Plenary Session)(Draft),
Item 3

(NC) At Enclosure is the edited text of the statement
on The Importance of AEW&C Support During the Crisis in Poland
which was made by SACEUR at the 76th Meeting of the MC/CS on
11 May 1981.

[Signature]
P.B. CAVENDISH *His Col*
Major General, UKAR
Acting Director
International Military Staff

1 ENCLOSURE
Text of SACEUR's Presentation

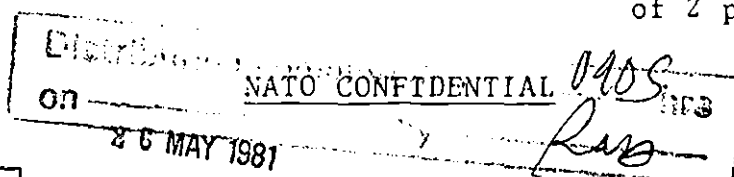
COPY TO: LIST K (less Conf. Serv.)
SACHUREP
SACLANTREPEUR
CINCHANREP

Action Officer: Colonel J.W. Salusbury-Trelawny (2714) MPM CSP
Action Division: Secretariat

IMSM-CBX- 295-81

-1-

This document consists
of a total of 3 pages
including an Enclosure
of 2 pages



IMS Control No. 1282

DECLASSIFIED-PUBLIC DISCLOSURE AC/324-N(2011)0002-AS2 DECLASSIFIE-MISE EN LECTURE PUBLIQUE

NATO CONFIDENTIALENCLOSURE

EDITED TEXT OF A PRESENTATION BY SACEUR
TO THE 76TH MC/CS ON
THE IMPORTANCE OF AEW&C SUPPORT DURING THE CRISIS IN POLAND (NC)

1. (NC) The decision to request the AWACS was influenced by three factors. One was the long range all altitude air surveillance and warning capability which provided considerable extension of existing coverage. Second, the additional intelligence of WP air movements which would be provided within the areas of coverage and provide the most complete picture available. The third factor was that the solidarity and concern of NATO nations was demonstrated by operation of these aircraft under NATO control - a highly visible gesture. Of particular concern was the possibility of attempts by Polish defectors to escape by air and their pursuit by WP fighter aircraft. We anticipated that this would most likely occur at low level and the AWACS could play a central role in providing real time information on such developments and in coordinating the necessary responses.
2. (NC) During the time four aircraft were in theatre, one and a half months, the detachment achieved almost 20 hours a day on station. With two aircraft about 11 hours of surveillance and, as the Chairman said, we are now flying one mission per week out of Iceland. The benefits of this operation were two-fold. Those associated with the Polish crisis and those of a general nature related to the developing NATO airborne early warning programme. With respect to the Polish crisis, significant improvement in the air picture over East Germany and Western Poland was provided. There was additional information for intelligence analysis, a substantially improved capability to deal with airborne defectors and their pursuers and NATO's concern, solidarity and resolve were demonstrated. With respect to benefits to the airborne early warning programme, there was a successful message processing centre, a US installation, with the NADGE interface established; considerable mutual training experience is very valuable with the second and fourth ATAF ground and air units and with the COMAAFCE staff and the offensive and defensive control capabilities were demonstrated and were practised. The flexible and rapid redeployment capability was demonstrated with a time of under 24 hours being achieved from the request to be on station to arrival. Finally there was the opportunity provided to demonstrate to some of the nations' political leaders and their parliamentarians the capability of the AWACS by actually letting them fly on missions so that they could observe what was happening. That may well have been the most important spin off from having the AWACS in theatre, other than the signal that was sent to the other side.

ENCLOSURE to
IMSM-CBX-295-81

- 1 -

This enclosure consists
of 2 pages

NATO CONFIDENTIAL

NATO CONFIDENTIAL

3. (NC) We were tracked by the other side and there were occasions when we think there were attempts to jam as well, but because it is a circular radar which continues to move, it was only a spot point jamming which did not affect it in any way.

4. (NC) The US has assured me that, should the situation require, they will immediately return adequate numbers of AWACS to provide us with the 20 hour coverage we had at the outset of the Polish crisis.

ENCLOSURE to
IMSM-CBX-295-81

- 2 -

NATO CONFIDENTIAL