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NORTH ATLANTIC MILITARY COMMITTEE
COMITE MILITAIRE DE L'ATLANTIQUE NORD



Record - MC-CBX-53-81 (Restricted Session)

12

6 January 1982

S U M M A R Y R E C O R D

53RD MEETING OF THE MILITARY COMMITTEE IN 1981

Held on Tuesday, 15th December 1981, at 1430 hours
in the Situation Centre, (Presentation Room),
NATO Headquarters, Brussels, Belgium

PRESENT

Chairman:	Admiral P.H. Falls
Belgium:	Lieutenant General Y. Dedeurwaerder
Canada:	Lieutenant General R. Gutknecht
Denmark:	Lieutenant General P.O.W. Thorsen
Germany:	Lieutenant General E.D. Bernhard
Greece:	Lieutenant General E. Papaefstathiou
Italy:	Vice Admiral G. Fantoni
Luxembourg:	Colonel P. Berqem
Netherlands:	Lieutenant General J.C. Zoutenbier
Norway:	Major General O. Mißen
Portugal:	General P.A.G. Cardoso
Turkey:	Vice Admiral S. Erqin
United Kingdom:	Admiral Sir Anthony Morton
United States:	Brigadier General D.O. Aldridge
Deputy Chairman:	Lieutenant General Sinclair L. Melner
Director, IMS:	Lieutenant General T. Huitfeldt

ALSO PRESENT

French Military Mission:	Colonel L. Klein
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J.D. Spottiswood
J.D. SPOTTISWOOD
Air Commodore, RAF
Secretary, IMS

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Colonel Nohr briefed the Military Committee on the military situation in Poland.

The Danish Member said that certain information received from Denmark indicated that there had been a slight increase in the state of readiness of some East German and Czechoslovakian units. That information tended to confirm the assessment presented by the Briefer. Information from a press source indicated that the first trial of people charged with violating martial law was about to start.

He announced that Denmark had taken certain additional precautions: air reconnaissance in the Baltic and naval surveillance had been increased.

Denmark's general assessment of the situation in Poland conformed to the IMS's assessment, but there was a feeling that strikes were spreading and, although the current situation was calm, anything might happen.

The United Kingdom Member said that all the information available to the United Kingdom tended to accord with the Briefer's views. However there was speculation that 17 December 1981 could be a significant date as it was the anniversary affecting an event in Gdansk.

He pointed out that it would be of general interest if the type of units so far committed could be identified. The type of elite organisations deployed, such as airborne and armoured units and the special security forces which consisted of party members, might provide an indication of how far the army had already been committed. His Authorities had received reports that relations between the armed forces and the civilian population remained cordial.

The Chairman agreed that a briefing on the structure of the forces updating the one of a year earlier would be of use if it helped to identify the type of forces already committed.

He pointed out that at the meeting of the NAC on the previous day, Ambassadors had decided that it would be right for NATO to adopt a generally low profile and not to interfere but to await the outcome of events. This had been reflected in the

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reports in the media of the Secretary General's subsequent press conference. The NAC was unlikely to meet to discuss Poland again unless events changed, as Members would not wish it to become known that they were meeting for that purpose.

He appealed to nations to provide the Intelligence Division, IMS with any information which they received concerning Poland.

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