

U.S. Delegation; distributed
at the Council meeting of 7/4/89

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P.A. Sub - Registry
File No 19-10-01 (Poland)

April 7, 1989

Proposal for Reinforced NAC on Poland

TPDZ

Mr. Chairman, I would like to draw the attention of the Council to the signing of a pact April 5 between Solidarity and the Government of Poland, legalizing Solidarity and making possible numerous other economic and political reforms. I believe we can all agree that, while this does not represent a solution to Poland's many problems, it does represent an important and positive development.

-- Accordingly, the White House has issued a statement to welcome the accord, which is indeed "a historic step toward pluralism and freedom." The President himself has long been concerned by the political situation in Poland, and has indicated his personal pleasure in the accord.

-- The United States wishes to do everything appropriate and feasible to support these accords, which we consider the best opportunity in many years to ameliorate, on Western terms, the consequences of the postwar division of Europe in that particular country.

-- We think that it is essential that the economic reforms, which underpin the political reforms, succeed. We expect that Solidarity, the Polish government, and possibly the Catholic church, will appeal for our help in this regard.

-- For that reason, we believe now is an appropriate and useful time for members of the Alliance to consult together on how best to respond to this challenge. We believe these consultations should be timely; we should not delay our response to the appeals when they come, and we should not act without seeking each other's advice.

-- Accordingly we would propose that Council discuss the recent events in Poland and their possible implications for our respective national policies. For our part, we are ready to send Mr. Thomas Simons, Deputy Assistant Secretary for European and Canadian Affairs, who has immediate responsibility for U.S. policy in this area, to brief on U.S. thinking on possible initiatives. We would hope other nations could send similar experts from their capitals as well for this Council discussion.

-- In the interests of seeing an early and timely discussion, we propose that this meeting occur next week, on Thursday April 13, in the afternoon.

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