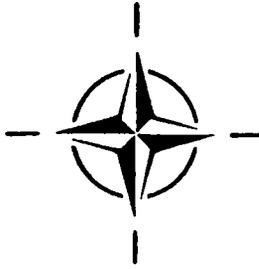


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ORGANISATION DU TRAITÉ DE L'ATLANTIQUE NORD
NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION

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

1110 - BRUXELLES

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18th April 1989

PR(89)9

To: Secretary General
cc: Deputy Secretary General
ASG, Political Affairs
From: Executive Secretary

Summary Record of a Restricted Meeting of the Council
on Friday, 7th April 1989 at 10.15 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. Wörner

I. REINFORCED COUNCIL MEETING ON POLAND




C. PREBENSEN

This document consists of: 20 pages

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

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

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ATTENDANCE:

Restricted

AGENDA:

Yes

MEETING PLACE:

Room 1

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

I. REINFORCED COUNCIL MEETING ON POLAND

1. The UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE wished to draw the attention of the Council to the signature of a pact on April 5th 1989 between Solidarity and the Government of Poland, which had legalized Solidarity and had made possible numerous other economic and political reforms. Whilst this did not represent a solution to Poland's many problems, he was sure that all present would agree that it did represent an important and positive development. Accordingly, the White House had issued a statement welcoming the accord which was indeed "an historic step towards pluralism and freedom". The President himself had long been concerned by the political situation in Poland, and had indicated his personal pleasure in the accord. The United States wished to do everything appropriate and feasible to support this accord, which was considered the best opportunity in many years to ameliorate, on Western terms, the consequences of the post-war division of Europe in that particular country. The United States considered it essential that the economic reforms, which underpinned the political ones, succeed, and expected that Solidarity, the Polish Government, and possibly the Catholic Church would appeal for Western help in this regard. For that reason, the United States considered that it would now be both appropriate and useful for members of the Alliance to consult together on how best to respond to this challenge. These consultations should be timely; the Allies should not delay their response to the appeals when they came, and should not act without seeking each other's advice. Accordingly, the United States proposed that the Council discuss the recent events in Poland and their possible implications on the respective national policies of the Allies. For its part, the United States was ready to send Mr. Thomas Simons, Deputy Assistant Secretary for European & Canadian Affairs, who had immediate responsibility for the United States' policy in this area, to brief the Council on United States' thinking on possible initiatives. It was hoped that other nations could send similar experts from their capitals for such a Council discussion. In the interests of an early and timely debate, the United States therefore proposed that a reinforced meeting of the Council to discuss Poland take place the following week, on Thursday April 13th, in the afternoon.

2. The CHAIRMAN agreed with the United States Representative that a reinforced Council meeting to discuss the situation in Poland was an excellent idea. If the Council agreed to hold a meeting on the 13th April, he would suggest that it take place at 3 p.m. and that it be chaired by the Deputy Secretary General, since he himself would unfortunately not be able to be present.

3. The FRENCH REPRESENTATIVE agreed with his United States colleague that recent events in Poland had been of great importance, and also agreed on the need for the Allies to consult together on this topic. However, there was less than one week before the proposed meeting, which meant that France was unable to guarantee that any national expert could attend.

4. The SPANISH REPRESENTATIVE considered that a Council meeting on the 13th April to discuss the situation in Poland might be somewhat premature,

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although he agreed with the United States that developments there were of great significance. He pointed out that the Expert Group On The Soviet Union & Eastern Europe Countries was currently meeting at NATO Headquarters, and that the experts would presumably have ample opportunity there to discuss recent events in Poland. Clearly, developments in that nation needed to be studied comprehensively, which was why a Council meeting in less than a week's time might be somewhat premature.

5. The CHAIRMAN appreciated the concerns voiced by the Permanent Representatives of France and Spain but pointed out that it was highly probable that the Polish Authorities would make some kind of appeal to the West; even if that did not take place in the immediate future it would be far better for the Allies to co-ordinate their reaction. Clearly, no final conclusions would have to be reached at the meeting proposed by the United States, but such a reinforced Council meeting would provide a useful opportunity for nations to exchange views, and to judge what individual national reactions might be to such an appeal from Poland. In this respect he pointed out that the Alliance would in any event deal with its approach to Eastern Europe in the Summit Declaration at the end of May. As the French and Spanish Representatives had observed, it would have been preferable for there to have been more time before such a reinforced Council meeting but he reminded Representatives that the meeting of the Nuclear Planning Group would take place in the third week of April and the week thereafter might be a little late. Therefore, for the West to prepare a timely reaction he would strongly plead for a Council meeting on Poland the following week. Even if it proved impossible for some nations to send experts he trusted that Ambassadors would present their nations' views. He therefore took it that the Council agreed to hold a re-inforced meeting on the situation in Poland on Thursday 13th April 1989 in the afternoon. This meeting would be chaired by the Deputy Secretary General.

