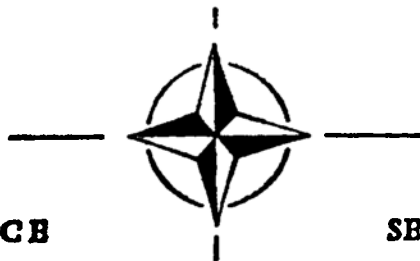


N A T O



O T A N

P R E S S S E R V I C E

S E R V I C E D E P R E S S E

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PRESS COMMUNIQUE M-DPC-1(77)3

For immediate release
25th March, 1977

FINAL COMMUNIQUE

The Defence Planning Committee of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation met in Ministerial Session in Brussels on 25th March, 1977, to discuss a co-operative programme to achieve a NATO Airborne Early Warning capability.

2. Ministers re-affirmed their support for the programme, and decided, subject to approval by competent authorities, that:

- (a) an AWACS early warning system will be established;
- (b) details of nationally suitable cost sharing and some other still open questions will be worked out rapidly;
- (c) governments will take all possible steps to establish an agreed co-operative programme by 1st July, 1977.

3. The United Kingdom Defence Minister, while endorsing fully the importance of the provision of an Airborne Early Warning System for the Alliance as a whole on the basis of collective decision and common funding, reserves the position of his Government as to the best way in which his Government could make its contribution.