



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

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NATO UNCLASSIFIED  
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PARIS-XVI  
Tél. : KLEber 50-20

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

~~NATO SECRET~~  
PO/55/800

MEMORANDUM

To: Permanent Representatives

From: Secretary General

This is an endeavour to summarise the results of our private discussions both before and after lunch today.

2. I believe there were two main, but related, points. The first was the importance of ensuring that the policies of the NATO governments vis-à-vis moves by the Soviet Government were as closely co-ordinated as possible and that the solidarity of NATO in the face of Soviet moves was maintained and strengthened.

3. The second point concerned the effects on public opinion of the various NATO countries of the new Soviet attitude and of Soviet moves, and consideration by the Council of these effects and of possible methods of countering any adverse effect on public opinion tending towards lack of harmony within the Alliance or the weakening of our defence effort.

4. It seemed to be generally agreed that a useful procedure to adopt in dealing with these two problems would be for the Council regularly to discuss them once a month - and of course more often if necessary.

5. The discussions in relation to NATO public opinion would have as background reports by the International Staff on the trends of public opinion in NATO countries, information on these being furnished where possible by delegations. The International Staff in their reports would draw attention to such trends as were common to several or all NATO countries.

6. It was further agreed that to facilitate the provision of suitable information to the International Staff from delegations, governments should be given a broad, but not an exclusive, list of the most useful subjects on which they could give information as to the trends of public opinion.

7. I suggest that initially this list should include:-

- (a) The effect of the new attitude of the Soviet leaders on the willingness of public opinion to maintain the level of defence expenditures.
- (b) What changes are detectable in the attitudes of:-
  - i) political groups, ii) the general public, with respect to the Atlantic Alliance as a whole and the national commitments to NATO?
- (c) What significant changes have been noted in recent months in trade union attitudes and the opinions expressed by their leaders since the initiation of the new Soviet and Communist tactics?

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- (d) What is the extent and what has been the extent and impact in recent months of "popular front" tactics by Communist parties and fellow travellers in the various countries?
- (e) What tactics are being adopted by Communist labour leaders in order to extend their influence over non-Communist trade unions?
- (f) What developments have taken place in recent months in respect of visits to the Soviet Union enlisting:-
- 1) Parliamentarians
  - 2) Other political leaders and groups, including civic or local government leaders
  - 3) Trade union leaders and members
  - 4) Religious groups and personalities
  - 5) Educational and cultural groups or persons
  - 6) Scientists
  - 7) Sport
  - 8) In the newspaper and radio field (more correspondents? more programmes? from the USSR).

Where possible, an assessment should be given of the general impact or of significant special developments arising from these visits.

- (g) Similarly, what groups or individual visitors have arrived from the Soviet Union? What, in each case, has been the broad general effect on public opinion, or on sections of public opinion as the result of these visits?

(Signed) ISMAY

22nd September, 1955