

N A T O ————  ———— O T A N

SERVICE DE PRESSE

PRESS SERVICE

OTAN/NATO, 1110 Bruxelles ■ Telephones: 241 00 40 - 241 44 00 - 241 44 90 TELEX: 23-867

PRESS RELEASE(85)2

Brussels, 13th February 1985

SCG CHAIRMAN'S PRESS STATEMENT

The NATO Special Consultative Group met to continue its discussion of the INF aspects of the new negotiations between the United States and the Soviet Union, scheduled to begin in Geneva this March 12th.

The SCG discussed preparations for the upcoming talks, the possible Soviet approach to the negotiations, the effect of Soviet deployments taken since the former INF talks in Geneva were broken off, and other aspects of the new Geneva negotiations.

The Group agreed that the Alliance's basic criteria for an agreement on INF remain valid. These include :

- Equality of rights and limits between the United States and the Soviet Union ;
- No negotiation of or compensation for third-country forces ;
- Global limits on LRINF missiles, and no exportation of the security threat in Europe to other regions, such as the Far East ;
- No adverse impact on NATO's conventional defence and deterrence capability ; and
- Measures for effective verification.

The Group also concluded that, consistent with these criteria, there was ample scope to arrive at an equitable agreement. SCG member governments remain committed to carrying out both tracks of the Alliance's December 1979 decision, deploying cruise and Pershing II missiles on schedule in the absence of concrete negotiating results, while actively and flexibly seeking through negotiations to achieve an agreement which will permit these deployments to be modified, halted, re-versed or dispensed with altogether.

The SCG will meet again on March 11.