

P.A. CHRONO

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)29

Brussels, 11 December 1985

SCG Chairman's Press Statement
December 11, 1985

The NATO Special Consultative Group met December 11, 1985, to consult on the strategy and prospects for an agreement between the United States and the Soviet Union concerning Intermediate-range Nuclear Forces (INF). The SCG reviewed the arms control aspects of the recent Geneva meetings between President Reagan and General Secretary Gorbachev. The members particularly welcomed the call by the two leaders for early progress on an interim agreement on Intermediate-range Nuclear Forces.

The Special Consultative Group reviewed with Ambassador Maynard Glitman, the U.S. negotiator for INF, the last Geneva round which ended November 7 and discussed the United States INF approach and the U.S. proposal of November 1 at the Geneva Nuclear and Space Talks. The Group discussed approaches and prospects for the upcoming Round to begin in January.

The SCG welcomed the new US proposal on INF which was tabled in Geneva on November 1. The new U.S. proposal on INF was based on extensive consultations within the Alliance including the last meeting of the SCG on October 25.

The new United States proposal, endorsed by the SCG, would result in agreement on an equal global ceiling on U.S. and Soviet LRINF missile warheads. Under the proposal, the U.S. would be limited to 140 LRINF missile launchers in Europe. The Soviets in turn would be required to reduce their SS-20s within range of NATO Europe to the same number, 140 launchers, and their SS-20s in Asia by the same proportion. The final mix of P-IIIs and GLCMs within that total will be a subject for future discussion with the Soviet Union, and could result in equal numbers of US LRINF missile warheads in Europe and Soviet SS-20 warheads within range of NATO Europe. Appropriate constraints would also be applied to shorter-range INF missiles.

The members of the Special Consultative Group reiterated that their continuing goal at Geneva is substantial, equitable and effectively verifiable reductions of U.S. and Soviet LRINF missile warheads to the lowest possible equal, global level, and the eventual elimination of this entire class of missile systems. The Allies reaffirmed their support for the readiness of the United States to pursue these negotiations with energy, patience and flexibility.

The Group confirmed Allied commitment to the dual-track decision of 1979, and expressed their continued support for the established Alliance criteria for reaching an INF accord. They recalled that NATO's LRINF missile deployment program began in late 1983 and is proceeding as scheduled at a gradual and steady pace to completion in 1988 in the absence of an INF agreement obviating the need for further deployments. As planned, the number of Alliance longer-range INF missiles will total 140 launchers by the end of this year.

The Group reviewed recent developments in the Soviet SS-20 force. The SCG noted that the SS-20 force remains 41 launchers with 1323 nuclear warheads.

The Special Consultative Group expressed the hope that the Soviet Union will return to the negotiating table in Geneva in January willing to move toward an equitable and verifiable INF agreement.