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ANNEX to
M-2(85)31For Immediate Release
13th December 1985EXTRACTS FOR PUBLICATION FROM THE MINUTES OF THE
MINISTERIAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

In addition to the Communique, the Foreign Ministers decided to publish the following extracts from the Minutes of their Meeting in Brussels on 12th and 13th December 1985.

Economic Co-operation and Assistance Within the Alliance

Ministers emphasised that Allied security does not only depend on military deterrence and political cohesion but also on the economic well-being of all members of NATO. Noting the Secretary General's personal report on "Economic Co-operation and Assistance Within the Alliance" in which concern was expressed about the growing gap in the GDP per capita of Greece, Portugal and Turkey relative to the NATO average, Ministers stressed the need for more co-operation and assistance particularly in the economic, technical, scientific, military and defence industrial sectors. Ministers also took note of the Secretary General's call that the more prosperous Allies, in taking economic decisions which affect Greece, Portugal and Turkey, take into consideration the special needs of those countries, and, to this end, also bring their influence to bear in the appropriate international fora.

Terrorism

Referring to paragraph 11 of their December 1985 Communique, Ministers strongly reaffirmed their condemnation of increasing acts of terrorism world-wide. They noted with grave concern that these acts constitute a threat to their citizens, challenging democratic and free institutions and the conduct of normal international relations. Ministers again stressed the need for the most effective co-operation possible to prevent and suppress this scourge.

Committee on the Challenges of Modern Society (CCMS)

Ministers took note of the Secretary General's annual report for 1985 on the work of the Committee on the Challenges of Modern Society and expressed satisfaction at the continuance of its high level of activities. Two studies were completed in the course of the year: Air Pollution Control Strategies and Impact Modelling and Seismology and Earthquake Loss Reduction. Two studies on Utilisation and Disposal of Municipal Sewage Sludge and Conservation/Restoration of Monuments are almost complete. Finally, three new studies, on Aircraft Noise in a Modern Society, Dioxin Problems, and Estuarine Management, have been undertaken by the Committee.

Science for Stability

Ministers noted with satisfaction the achievements since 1981 of the Science for Stability programme aimed at mobilising the human and institutional resources of Greece, Portugal and Turkey on advanced technological projects of economic relevance. In view of this success, Ministers decided in principle to extend the duration of this programme for the period 1987-91. The level of funding will be decided later.

The Situation in the Mediterranean

Ministers noted the report on the Situation in the Mediterranean. In view of the actual and potential impact on Alliance security of events in the area, they requested the Council in Permanent Session to continue to consult on the question and to submit further reports at their future meetings.

Out-of-Area

Ministers reaffirmed that events outside the Treaty area may affect their common interests as members of the Alliance. They will engage in timely consultations on such events, if it is established that their common interests are involved. Sufficient military capabilities must be assured in the Treaty area to maintain an adequate defence posture. Allies who are in a position to do so will endeavour to support those sovereign nations who request assistance in countering threats to their security and

independence. Those Allies in a position to facilitate the deployment of forces outside the Treaty area may do so, on the basis of national decision.

East-West Trade

Recalling previous statements, Ministers reaffirmed that trade conducted on the basis of commercially sound terms and mutual advantage, that avoids preferential treatment of the Soviet Union, contributes to constructive East-West relations. At the same time, bilateral economic relations with the Soviet Union and the countries of Eastern Europe must remain consistent with broad Allied security concerns. These include avoiding dependence on the Soviet Union, or contributing to Soviet military capabilities. In order to avoid further use by the Soviet Union of some forms of trade to enhance its military strength, the Allies will remain vigilant in their continuing review of the security aspects of East-West economic relations. This work will assist Allied governments in the conduct of their policies in this field.