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COMMERCIAL RELATIONS BETWEEN NATO STATES AND THE
SOVIET OCCUPIED ZONE OF GERMANY

Report by the Committee of Political Advisers

In accordance with the Council's instructions,⁽¹⁾ the Committee has discussed the note on this subject by the German Delegation (C-M(58)75).

2. This discussion has shown that the current commercial relations between NATO governments and the Soviet-occupied zone of Germany are in general conformity with the views and objectives set forth in the note in question, more particularly in that:

- (a) NATO governments have not concluded governmental agreements with the régime of the Soviet occupied zone, although private agencies in NATO countries are not precluded from negotiating agreements with the Soviet zone agencies on a non-official basis;
- (b) the NATO governments do not admit any official Soviet-zonal trade delegations as such into their countries: representatives of the Soviet zonal Foreign Trade Chamber are only admitted in a private capacity to negotiate agreements with private agencies. In cases where it is considered essential to permit the Soviet zonal Foreign Trade Chamber to establish an office in a NATO country, the size, status, and activities of such an office are restricted from the beginning and it is made clear to them that they operate as private individuals representing a private trade organization and that they are not entitled to carry out governmental functions, or to contact governmental agencies;

(1) C-R(58)36, Item IV.

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(c) NATO governments do not send official or unofficial delegations to the Soviet occupied zone or to East Berlin, although visits of representatives of private industry are not precluded.

3. Member governments of NATO do not contemplate changing the basis of current practice, as described above, of their commercial relations with the Soviet occupied zone of Germany. In the event of such a change being contemplated, prior consultation in the Council would be called for.

4. The Council is invited to approve this report.

(Signed) A. CASARDI

Palais de Chaillot,
Paris, XVIIe.