

NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL DEPUTIES SUPPLEANTS DU CONSEIL DE L'ATLANTIQUE NORD

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POSSIBILITY OF COMMON ACTION TO
COUNTER SOVIET PROPAGANDA

Note by the Executive Secretary

There is attached a summary of the statement made by the Greek Representative on 12th March, 1952, during the course of the Council Deputies' discussion of the possibility of common action to counter Soviet propaganda (D-R(52)22, Item IV(a)).

(Signed) N. E. P. SUTTON

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Summary of Statement made by the Greek
Deputy at a Council Deputies meeting held on
12th March, 1952

Referring to counter-propaganda measures,

THE GREEK REPRESENTATIVE said that he saw no objection to this question being referred to a Committee of Experts, which would be requested to prepare a detailed study of this problem.

He thought, nevertheless, that the question was clearly a political one, which covered an extremely wide field. It therefore appeared necessary that the Council should give this Committee of Experts more specific instructions on how the matter should be approached. A general discussion in the Council would be desirable and would assist the Committee to clarify the general principles they should follow.

He considered that the question had two different aspects, which should be examined by the Committee to be set up. The first aspect was that of the fight of the free nations against the ideological forces exploited by Communism, and he thought that it was mainly this point with which Mr. De Gasperi had been concerned in his statement at the Lisbon Conference: for Communism disguised as an ideological movement could not be fought by force alone. The free peoples should oppose against it the vast strength of their own ideology, for only thus would it be possible to resist the ideas spread by Communism and which, it could not be denied, had a certain attraction for the masses. It might therefore be wise to formulate the principles underlying the ideology of the free peoples. The draft statement by Mr. Eden at the Lisbon Conference, and the recent message of President Truman to Congress concerning Mutual Aid, were excellent starting points for such a study by the Committee of Experts.

Moreover, he believed that the N.A.T.O countries, having combined their forces in order better to defend themselves against Communist aggression, should also combine their efforts to counter the subversive propaganda of international Communism. All the free nations, therefore, should take concerted action capable of producing results.

He pointed out, by way of example, that a Communist organization was recently discovered in Athens, with two radio transmitters keeping it in touch with Communist organizations abroad, which worked with a view to re-organizing throughout the country the former Communist Party network, transmitting military, political and economic information, and thus preparing a new subversive movement in Greece. Now, this underground organization received funds from abroad and had ramifications in the free countries. The Greek authorities had tried in vain to obtain the extradition

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of those charged with aiding and abetting. Their endeavours had encountered the obstacle deriving from the classic concept of non-extradition of "political" criminals. It was becoming evident, therefore, that certain legal procedures should be better defined, or even revised, in the light of new circumstances.

Moreover, another series of measures should be taken in connection with direct mutual help between countries faced with the same threat (movements of Communist agents, the collection and transmission of funds etc). He was prepared to give further particulars to the Committee of Experts if required, but he wished to emphasize here and now the paramount necessity of achieving a fuller co-ordination of the forces of the free countries in their fight against the subversive activities of international Communism.