

Secret Item

NOTES FOR SUPPLEMENTARIES

CSCE MADRID MEETING1. WHAT HAS BEEN ACHIEVED?

One of the major objectives was to conduct a frank and thorough exchange of views on the way participating states had implemented the provisions of the Helsinki Final Act in the period since the Belgrade Review Meeting. This review took place in the six week period before the Christmas 1980 recess and attention was drawn to serious violations of the Final Act provisions relating to human rights as well as the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. Since then, in the course of negotiations on a final document, provisional agreement has been reached in the areas of human contacts, educational and cultural exchanges and economic cooperation which represents an advance upon similar commitments in the Final Act.



WHAT ARE THE OUTSTANDING ISSUES?

2. There is no agreement as yet on the major issues of human rights and military security. The key outstanding issue in the negotiations relates to the geographical zone of application of Confidence Building Measures. Once this question is resolved, I would expect rapid agreement to be reached on the other points.

WHAT ARE THE CHANCES OF SUCCESS?

3. I remain hopeful that agreement will be reached upon a substantial and balanced final document. In agreeing to the recess, delegations resolved to complete the work by the middle of December. In our view, the concluding document should contain wording on the issues of importance to us in the areas of human rights, military security, and human contacts and information.

WHY COULD THE MEETING NOT CONCLUDE IN JULY?

4. In an attempt to conclude the meeting by the end of July, NATO delegations tabled a text on the key outstanding issue of the geographical zone on 16 July. However, the Soviet rejection of this text and their tabling of an obviously unacceptable counter formula on 20 July meant that the goal of agreement before the end of July was clearly no longer attainable.



BACKGROUND

CSCE State of Play

1. The Madrid CSCE Review Meeting decided on 24 July to adjourn for a summer recess from 28 July - 27 October. The Meeting resolved to complete its work "with the adoption of a substantial and balanced concluding document by the middle of December 1981".
2. Provisional agreement has already been reached on a number of texts in Baskets II and III. These texts represent advances upon similar commitments contained in the Helsinki Final Act. In particular, the agreed language on family reunification and visa procedures represents a gain for western negotiators.
3. The key outstanding issue remains the geographical zone of application in the French CDE mandate. The Russians have accepted virtually all of the other elements in the French text (i.e. military significance, verification and mandatory nature) but have continued to block progress in the parallel negotiations on human rights and commitments to a further CSCE Review Meeting.
4. In an attempt to break through this deadlock and provide the Russians with an acceptable face-saving formula, NATO delegations proposed a formula on the geographical zone, but this was rejected by the Russians who responded with an unacceptable, obscure text of their own.