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NOTE OF A MEETING WITH THE FRG DELEGATION IN THE MARGINS
OF THE NPG KANANASKIS, CANADA, 9TH MAY 1990

Present:

Federal Republic of Germany

Dr G Stoltenberg
Federal Minister of Defence

Dr H F von Ploetz
Ambassador, Permanent
Representative

Admiral D Wellershoff
Chief of Staff, Federal
Armed Forces

Lt Gen J Schonbohm
Chief Planning Staff

Maj Gen K Naumann
ACOS Politico Military
Affairs, Operations

Col R Schüwirth
Staff Officer to
Dr Stoltenberg

United Kingdom

The Rt Hon T King
Secretary of State for
Defence

Sir M Alexander
Ambassador/Permanent
Representative on the North
Atlantic Council

Sir D Craig
Marshal of the Royal Air
Force/Chief of Defence
Staff

Mr R Mottram
Deputy Under Secretary
of State(Policy)

Mr S Webb
Private Secretary to the
Secretary of State

The Defence Secretary began the meeting by thanking Dr Stoltenberg for his help in reaching a mutually satisfactory arrangement on the radar for the European Fighter Aircraft.

Unification of Germany

2. Dr Stoltenberg said that he had had a useful meeting with Pastor Eppelmann, the new Defence Minister of the GDR. Pastor Eppelmann had agreed to communicate language accepting full membership of NATO though he was inclined to add qualifications depending on whether he was speaking to Dr Stoltenberg or in Moscow. It was clear that the Soviets were leaning hard on the GDR Government. At present Soviet forces seemed to be acting in a restrained way, being confined either to their Camps or designated training areas. Dr Stoltenberg thought that Mr King's visit to Moscow next week came at an interesting and opportune time.



3. On the military aspects of unification, Dr Stoltenberg said that his Ministry of Defence needed to do more conceptual work. The problem was how to discuss this with the East Germans without the Russians finding out. A particular issue, which he has mentioned to Mr King privately before, was whether - as a fall-back compromise - we should accept ceilings on troop numbers in GDR as part of CFE (obviously this could not be allowed to become an issue in "two-plus-four"). The GDR looked intent on keeping their conscript Army. There was a considerable problem about the Senior Officer Corps. Pastor Eppelmann found his predecessor was now Army Chief of Staff; and there were 300 Generals in the NVA, a much higher ratio than in the Bundeswehr.

NATO Summit

4. Dr Stoltenberg reiterated remarks he had made at the Ministerial lunch about the need to ensure a proper Defence input into the NATO Summit preparations. Obviously we could not pretend to elaborate a new strategy by then, but it would be important to describe the major principles and to have them endorsed by the DPC before the Summit preparations went too far. Otherwise there was a risk of valid Defence concerns getting lost.

Basing of F15Es

5. The Defence Secretary explained the proposition that had been put to him by the US Secretary for Defense, and the response he had given earlier that day (ie to suggest that the main base for F15Es should be Upper Heyford with Bentwaters as a forward operating base). Dr Stoltenberg said that when the UK had reached its decision, the FRG could then turn to the question of using Ramstein as a Forward base for these aircraft. He was not so sure anymore that a joint announcement would be needed; indeed there would be much to be said for leaving any public decision on F15Es until the New Year. General Naumann interjected that because of delays in completing works at Crotone, the US had raised the possibility of deploying F16s from Torrejon to Ramstein as an intermediate measure.

6. This led on to a discussion on the likely timing of German elections. Dr Stoltenberg said that constitutionally, delay beyond next January was not possible. This meant that to have a combined election would require arrangements for unification to have been settled by November which was optimistic. On the other hand, the feeling was that any FRG election should only be followed by a elections for a unified Germany after an interval of ten to twelve months (lest the voters get tired of voting).



7. Questioned about evolving political attitudes, Dr Stoltenberg said that it had been helpful to his Government for the SPD to have modified their position on German membership of NATO (particularly acceptance that this would be necessary for at least an interim period).

8. The meeting concluded after half an hour.

Ministry of Defence
9th May 1990

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