



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

October 25, 1990

MEMORANDUM
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TO: NSC - Mr. Gompert

FROM: State/EUR - James F. Dobbins, Acting *JD*

SUBJECT: NATO Strategy Review Paper for October 29 Discussion

Attached is the latest draft of our paper on enhancing NATO's political role, which has been vetted interagency and discussed most recently at Wednesday's meeting. There appeared to be agreement on its conclusions. The body of the paper generally reflects interagency views but closure has not been reached on two topics, on which discussion/decision at the DC level is now required.

Expansion of NATO Membership

The first such topic is the expansion of NATO membership, specifically whether or not NATO should accept East European members. While we must not present NATO as a closed club, there is clearly no support for such membership now. The question is how to present the possibility. OSD wishes to leave the door ajar with caveats such as no discussion at this time. State prefers simply to note that discussion of expanding membership is not on the agenda and need not be addressed in the NATO strategy review.

European Pillar

The second topic is the "European pillar," with respect to which three issues remain open:

- o Is the U.S. prepared to accept a European caucus within NATO? Greater European security consultation and possibly cooperation appear inevitable. Accepting a caucus within NATO would at least keep these consultations within the Alliance. On the other hand, we would have to work to ensure that the caucus did not erode the strategic unity of the Alliance, but instead strengthened Atlanticism and ensured the primacy of NATO.

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- o Is the U.S. prepared to promote or even propose European defense cooperation in or alongside NATO? Although not as likely to come about as soon as a European caucus, we should consider our policy towards such cooperation. Ambassador Taft's recent cable on the WEU is indicative of European interest in this issue, but other soundings suggest that the issue may be less ripe for decision than his conversations indicate.

- o Is the U.S. prepared to support changes in the command structure of NATO forces? As the U.S. draws down its forces in Europe, the European role will inevitably increase. NATO strategy and force structure are now under review. If and when actual changes in the burden and role of European forces are implemented, appropriate changes in the command structure would seem appropriate. We need to consider whether to signal now our readiness to accept these changes -- once conditions are right -- in order to direct and shape the changes as they come about.

Attachment:

Enhancing NATO's Political Role in Support of Security

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