



NATO Ministerial Communiqué

The North Atlantic Council met in Ministerial Session in Lisbon, June 6-7. The following is the text of their joint communiqué.

"1. We are a defensive Alliance dedicated to the preservation of peace and the protection of freedom.

2. Reaffirming the principles of last year's Washington Statement on East-West Relations, we remain determined to maintain both our political solidarity and the military strength necessary for our defence. On this basis, we seek genuine *détente* through constructive dialogue and broad cooperation with the Soviet Union and with each of the countries of Eastern Europe in all areas. We call on the new Soviet leadership to join us in seeking tangible improvements in East-West relations, which would permit us to build on areas of common interest. A positive Soviet response to the US approach at the US-Soviet negotiations recently opened in Geneva would contribute substantially towards that end.

3. We do not seek military superiority for ourselves. None of our weapons will ever be used except in response to attack. But, faced with the continuing build-up and modernization of Soviet nuclear and conventional arms, we shall preserve credible deterrence through sufficient conventional and nuclear forces. The Allies participating in the military structure of the Alliance are making an effort to improve, in particular, their conventional capabilities. Our strategy of deterrence has proved its value in safeguarding peace; it remains fully valid. Its purpose is to prevent war and to enable us to resist intimidation.

4. The security of the North American and European Allies is inseparable. The cohesion of the Alliance is sustained by continuous consultations on all matters affecting our common interests and security.

5. Deterrence and defence together with arms control and disarmament are integral parts of the security policy of

the Alliance. We wish to strengthen the peace by establishing a stable military balance at the lowest possible level of forces.

6. In this spirit, we welcome the US-Soviet negotiations in Geneva on their strategic nuclear weapons, on their intermediate-range nuclear weapons and on defence and space systems. These negotiations are intended to work out between the two countries effective agreements aimed at preventing an arms race in space and terminating it on earth, at limiting and reducing nuclear arms and at strengthening strategic stability. We strongly support US efforts in all three areas of negotiation, and we call on the Soviet Union to adopt a positive approach. The Allies concerned reiterate their willingness to modify, halt, reverse, or dispense with Longer-Range INF (LRINF) deployment as part of an equitable and verifiable arms control agreement. In the absence of such an agreement, they will continue to deploy LRINF missiles on schedule. We will continue to consult closely on all of these issues¹.

7. We are determined to achieve progress also on other aspects of arms control and disarmament and urge the Soviet Union to work with us for balanced and verifiable agreements. In particular:

- in the Vienna MBFR negotiations the participating Allies are seeking equal collective manpower levels through verifiable reductions in conventional forces in Europe and effective associated measures;
- in Stockholm (CDE) we are seeking agreement on militarily significant, politically binding and verifiable confidence and security building measures covering the whole of Europe to give new, concrete effect and expression to the existing duty of all participating states to refrain from the threat or use of force;
- in the Geneva Conference on Disarmament we seek in particular a worldwide comprehensive and verifiable ban on Chemical Weapons; we remain deeply concerned about the proliferation and use of such weapons.

8. We attach great importance to the full implementation by all participating states



Opening statement by Portuguese Prime Minister Mario Soares at the start of the NATO Foreign Ministers meeting in Lisbon on June 6, 1985. Reuters/Bettmann Newsphotos

¹ Greece and Denmark reserve their positions on the INF part of this paragraph.