

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
BRIEFING PAPER

Bilateral Briefing Paper

NATO

Secretary General Joseph M.A.H. Luns



Setting

You last saw Luns at the White House in February 1975. Since the start of his tenure at NATO in 1971, Luns has been a strong Secretary General and has given the US forceful support on major issues. You will want to assure Luns of the importance the US attaches to NATO, and the basic confidence we retain in the Alliance despite our full recognition of the troubles it faces.

Courtesy Points

-- Tell Luns that it is always a pleasure to see him since he is both a strong steward of the Alliance and a good friend of the US.

-- That you look forward to Luns' and the NATO Council's visit to the White House on June 19.

Issues/Talking Points

1. State of the Alliance

Luns will want to hear the thrust of the remarks you will make to the Council.

Your Talking Points

-- This NATO summit, coming at a time of disturbing international developments and serious problems within NATO, is especially important in reaffirming the validity of the Alliance.

-- Your remarks to the Council will note major problems facing NATO, but the thrust will be to underscore the continuing US commitment to NATO and

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our confidence in the ability of the Alliance to continue on a vigorous basis of common goals and beliefs.

2. Alliance Defense

There has been slippage in Allied efforts to maintain defenses in the last year, including significant cuts by the UK. On May 23, Defense Ministers approved a Long-Term Defense Concept which aims to maintain Allied strength in a period of economic pressure through rationalization and standardization in the military sphere, and through increased cooperation among Allied military establishments. The US is increasing combat forces in Europe by conversions from support forces, as provided for by the Nunn Amendments.



Your Talking Points

-- It is important for our Allies to maintain a strong defense capability. We are pleased with the increased attention that military standardization and rationalization have received in NATO, and we will push vigorously in this direction in the future.

-- The importance we attach to a sound defense in Europe is evidenced by the conversions we are making from support to combat forces, which will continue in 1976.

3. Cyprus

Luns follows relations between Greece and Turkey closely in keeping with his "watching brief" on Cyprus. He will welcome your assessment.

Your Talking Points

-- We believe the intercommunal talks are the most realistic means of achieving progress on a Cyprus settlement, and are pleased that the negotiators have agreed to a second round of talks in

Vienna with Waldheim June 5-9.

-- The parties remain far apart on many issues and the delicate political situation in Ankara will require the Turks to proceed cautiously in the negotiations.

-- In any case, we are urging the parties to approach these talks with maximum flexibility and encouraging the development of a better Greek-Turkish understanding which can lay the basis for a relaxation of tensions in the Aegean and progress in the Cyprus negotiations.

4. Greece and NATO

Luns has followed discussions among a "small group" of Allies including the UK, US, Italy, FRG, Belgium, and Greece. They have conducted informal talks on the possible relationship of Greece to NATO before Greece submits its views into a more formal negotiating process involving other Allies, including Turkey. Luns generally shares our objectives in guiding Greece back into full military participation in NATO activities, recognizing that Greece has domestic political problems and that the process will take time.

Your Talking Points

-- We favor the fullest return possible of Greece to NATO military activities, and are encouraged by signs that the Greeks seem to want to rejoin NATO defense in a politically acceptable manner.

-- Luns' good offices will be important in keeping eventual Greece-NATO negotiations on a productive track, and in moderating between Greece and Turkey if the need arises.

5. Turkey

A number of Allies, working through NATO's Defense Planning Committee (DPC), are exploring



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ways in which they can meet Turkey's critical needs for military items without contravening US legislation cutting off the flow of US items.

Your Talking Points

-- We remain hopeful that the Congressional cut-off of February 5 can be lifted.

-- We hope Luns, working through the DPC, can make it easier for other Allies on a bilateral basis to help Turkey meet its critical needs.

6. Portugal

In late 1974, Luns was very helpful to us in devising a formula by which Portugal abstains from receiving sensitive categories of NATO classified information, including nuclear information. He will want to know your views on Portugal's future role in the Alliance.

Your Talking Points

-- We are encouraged that Portugal's elections gave support to the socialists rather than communists. At the same time, these elections are not an indication of how the Portuguese government will act in the future, and we remain concerned that Portugal may develop in a radical, non-communist direction, or along communist lines.

-- At present, our attitude on Portugal in NATO is to wait and see how Portugal develops. If the Portuguese government evolves in a more radical direction, or if Portugal threatens to obstruct Alliance activities, we will have to reassess the situation.

-- We are also concerned with the fact that a NATO member has communist ministers in office. This can represent a model for other countries, such as Italy to follow.

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-- Solicit Luns' views on the question of Portugal and NATO.

7. Spain

Luns is sympathetic to our objectives in bringing Spain into closer association with NATO, although he recognizes there is a strong sentiment among most Allies to avoid any visible link while Franco is in office.

Your Talking Points

-- Your trip to Madrid will be a sign of strong American interest in Spain, and in Spain's future. The US attaches great importance to a stable and moderate government in Spain after Franco leaves the scene.

-- We favor Spanish membership in NATO as early as possible. Spain can make an important military contribution to NATO, and NATO could supply a framework in which Spain could more easily follow a stable, moderate course.

-- Solicit Luns' help in moving Spain closer to NATO in the present environment through realistic steps.

8. East-West Relations and Detente

Luns will want to know if you envisage any qualitative changes in US-Soviet relations or in Allied detente policy.

Your Talking Points

-- You attach continuing importance to improving US-Soviet relations, a process which is important to maintaining stability and minimizing the risks of war.



-- Western approaches to detente, including CSCE and MBFR, must be based on solidarity and strong defenses. Common Allied objectives are important.

9. CSCE

Luns will want to know your views on a summit meeting, and your assessment of its significance.

Your Talking Points

-- In principle, you are prepared to attend a stage III head of government meeting in Helsinki, provided final stage II results are balanced.

-- CSCE results can only be evaluated over the long term. Thus Alliance leaders should work to reduce euphoria in the West about the significance of CSCE and to reaffirm the need for strong Alliance defenses.

10. MBFR

Luns will want to know if and how the US intends to introduce nuclear elements into the negotiations (Option III), and will be interested in your views on the timing and progress in MBFR.

Your Talking Points

-- The US will present to the Allies a comprehensive paper with its views on the question of adding nuclear elements to US Phase I reductions, and on the need to maintain maximum force flexibility on the NATO side.

-- While the negotiations have made slow progress to date, they have contributed to Allied cohesiveness, and have permitted the Allies to take important steps in defense, such as the Long Range Defense Concept adopted by DPC Ministers,



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and the US conversion of support to combat forces.

-- You are confident that the negotiations will produce satisfactory progress for both sides in due course.



NATO
May 1975

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