

December 11, 1979

Result deliberations Belgian core-cabinet

Citation:

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<https://wilson-center-digital-archive.dvincitest.com/document/110328>

Summary:

Information obtained by the Dutch government regarding Belgian discussions on the modernization of NATO's intermediate nuclear weapons. The Belgian cabinet agrees that TNF should be linked with arms negotiations, with a reevaluation of progress every 6 months used to direct modernization, in order to guarantee the lowest possible level of military balancing.

Credits:

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Dutch

Contents:

Original Scan

handwritten memorandum¹
Archive of A.A.M. van Agt, box 41, TNF file, Catholic Documentation Center,
University Nijmegen
translation from the Dutch, and footnotes: Ruud van Dijk, University of Amsterdam

Very Secret

Result deliberations Belgian core-cabinet, 11-12-'79²

“³The decision regarding the modernization of NATO's intermediate nuclear weapons should be made conditional on the following specifications (*qualifications*⁴):

- 1) It should be possible at all times to change or cancel (*annuler*) the implementation of this decision in response to the progress of the negotiations with the USSR, with the aim to ensure and stabilize the military balance at a level as low as possible. For this reason, no automatic development can be accepted here.
- 2) NATO's new intermediate-range weapons have to be developed by the United States under its own responsibility.
- 3) The implementation of the modernization decision for NATO's intermediate-range nuclear weapons is being interrupted for a period of 6 months, as far as implementation measures in Europe are concerned.
- 4) Even after this time period the decision will only be implemented on the abrogating condition that implementation will not take place if the arms control negotiations in this area lead to satisfactory results.
- 5) At its ministerial meeting in May 1980, NATO will evaluate the state of the Soviet Union's deployment of intermediate range nuclear weapons and the progress of the negotiations with the aim of achieving mutual arms reduction at a level as low as possible.
- 6) Based on this evaluation NATO will if necessary (*en cas d'écheance*) adjust or cancel (*annuler*) its own program specifically with regard to measures to be implemented on European territory, with the aim to create and stabilize a balance between East and West in this area at a level as low as possible.
- 7) At every six-month ministerial meeting of NATO there will be an investigation of the state of the negotiations with the USSR, and based on this relevant decisions will be taken immediately regarding the implementation of the decision to modernize NATO's intermediate-range nuclear weapons.

¹ By Van Agt's top adviser, J. P. M. H. Merckelbach. Not dated.

² Initially: 10-12-'79, but 10 changed into 11 (i.e. December 11, 1979). There is no indication of how the Dutch prime minister's office obtained this information.

³ In spite of this opening quotation mark, there is no closing equivalent in the document.

⁴ In French.