

ARTICLE APPEARED  
ON PAGE A-3

NEW YORK TIMES  
27 JUNE 1980

## NATO, Favoring Soviet Dialogue, Demands a Pullout in Afghanistan

By BERNARD GWERTZMAN

Special to The New York Times

ANKARA, Turkey, June 26 — The North Atlantic military alliance concluded its annual meeting today with a renewed demand for total Soviet troop withdrawal from Afghanistan, but it also stressed willingness to maintain a dialogue with the Soviet Union.

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization's foreign ministers stressed the need for "immediate, unconditional and total withdrawal of foreign troops from Afghanistan" and urged the Soviet Government "to respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of that country and the rights of the Afghan people freely to determine their future."

In their final communiqué, the ministers noted that the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan "had done serious damage to détente" but restated their wish "to keep open the channels of communication between the countries of East and West."

In effect, the communiqué represented a consensus position that was foreshadowed by the statement on Afghanistan issued in Venice by seven non-Communist industrialized nations.

Both here and in Venice, the United States claimed strong backing for its policy of firm confrontations over Afghanistan, while French officials said the combination of toughness and continued dialogue with the Russians was an affirmation of the position they share with the West Germans.

### Muskie Cites 'Basic Solidarity'

Secretary of State Edmund S. Muskie said at a news conference at the end of the session that the allied views on Afghanistan "reflected the basic solidarity" of the alliance. He said that the wording of the communiqué showed that the allies

had "failed to be seduced" by the Soviet announcement last weekend that some of its units were being withdrawn.

In fact, Mr. Muskie said that American intelligence now believed that there had been an increase in Soviet forces in Afghanistan in recent weeks, bringing the total above 85,000, while the planned withdrawal would involve 5,000 to 8,000 troops.

The recent announcement that some Soviet troops are being withdrawn from Afghanistan would be of interest if it were the beginning of a total withdrawal," the communiqué said, repeating the demand for "the total and immediate withdrawal" of the Soviet forces.

The only issue that apparently produced some discord, according to the spokesmen of various delegations, was the drafting of communiqué language on the Middle East. Several European countries, including Britain and France, wanted it to reflect the recent statement issued by the Common Market, which includes a call for "self-determination" for the Palestinians.

Because the phrase "self-determination" is usually regarded in the code of Middle East diplomacy as the right of the Palestinians to an independent state on Israel's borders, Mr. Muskie objected. The United States has maintained that the Palestinians should have a voice in the determination of their future, meaning they should negotiate with Israel and other parties in the region about their eventual status.

Mr. Muskie appeared irritated when asked about the dispute, saying that it was "interesting how quickly a closed session becomes open."

STAT