



**NORTH ATLANTIC ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLÉE DE L'ATLANTIQUE NORD**

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The Interparliamentary Organisation of the Atlantic Alliance — L'organisation interparlementaire de l'Alliance atlantique

International Secretariat
Secrétariat international

FAX TRANSMISSION

TO: Ms. Susan KOSINSKI
AID

FROM: Simon LUNN
Deputy Secretary General

DATE: 4 November 1992

FAX NUMBER: 00 1 202 647 69 62

TOTAL NUMBER OF PAGES: 23

Please find enclosed our Final Report on the 1991 AID Grant.

If something more is required, please let me know at our meeting tomorrow.

FINAL REPORT ON THE 1991 AID GRANT TO THE NORTH ATLANTIC ASSEMBLY

GRANT NUMBER EUR-0019-4-00-2016-00

Summary of Activities

The grant for 1991 facilitated the participation of legislators and their staff from Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Bulgaria and the three Baltic States (henceforth referred to as "CEE legislators") at the Autumn Meeting of the North Atlantic Assembly (NAA) in Madrid (Spain) and at the Spring Meeting of the NAA in Banff (Canada), the participation of a Hungarian legislator in the work of the Sub-Committee on Defence Cooperation, and at the following Rose-Roth seminars and meetings:

- Vilnius, in co-operation with the Lithuanian Parliament, Rose-Roth seminar on "Baltic Security Requirements";
- Copenhagen, in co-operation with the Danish Folketing, Rose-Roth seminar on "Defence Conversion";
- Paris, meeting of the Assembly's Economic Committee at OECD;
- Brussels, in co-operation with the Belgian Parliament, Rose-Roth seminar on "CSCE and European Security";
- Riga, in co-operation with the Latvian Parliament, Rose-Roth seminar on "Stability and Security in the Baltic Region";
- The Hague, in co-operation with the Netherlands Atlantic Committee, seminar on "Preventing Instability in Post Cold War Europe; The Institutional Responses of: NATO, the WEU, the EC, the CSCE and the UN".

Activities in the six months following the expiration of the 1991 grant will include: a Rose-Roth seminar on "Nuclear Safety" in Moscow, July; a Parliamentary Staff Training Programme in Brussels and the United Kingdom, September; a Rose-Roth seminar on "Stability in the Balkans" in Athens, October; a Rose-Roth seminar on "Stability in the Baltic Region" in Tallinn, October; and the Annual Session of the NAA in Bruges, November.

Programme Description

The NAA's "outreach" programme must be assessed within the context of the conditions prevailing in CEE and the nature and role of the NAA as an interparliamentary organization. For the purposes of this report both are summarized below.

The conditions throughout CEE are well known and need no reiteration here. The relevance to the NAA's role is the fact that all the countries in CEE, both for similar and individual reasons, seek a closer relationship with the Western Community, and in particular the Atlantic Alliance. Their internal weaknesses, and the instability of their external environment, have combined to produce a deep sense of vulnerability. They seek both psychological and material support from the West through closer involvement and practical assistance.

Moreover, the democratic process in most of these countries remains in its infancy. By their own admission, CEE legislators lack the experience and know-how of the norms for parliamentary practice and procedures in democratic societies. There is an absence of trained parliamentary staff essential for an effectively functioning parliament. The legacy of the former regimes means that there is also a lack of information and of the infrastructure in society at large - research institutes, press, etc - necessary for informed public debate and discussion.

Traditionally, the NAA has been a vehicle for transatlantic parliamentary co-operation bringing together parliamentarians of all political persuasions from the sixteen members of the Alliance. With its primary functions being providing information, education, and increasing mutual understanding, it has always played an important role in sustaining Alliance solidarity and cohesion.

The Assembly therefore represents an ideal vehicle for integrating at the parliamentary level the countries of CEE into the Western and Atlantic Community and for providing practical experience, expertise and information. The benefits of participation in the NAA can be summarized as follows: providing a sense of involvement and partnership in a NATO-related organization; providing much needed information and data concerning key issues of the day; exposure to parliamentary practice and procedure; and contact with a wide range of fellow legislators.

At the practical level, there are a number of obvious advantages in using the NAA in this way as it is a well-established organization with an experienced secretariat and a range of funded activities aimed at increasing parliamentary co-operation and consultation. Many of the costs associated with the participation of additional numbers of CEE legislators in the normal and "special" activities of the NAA (production and distribution of documents, communication, etc) have been absorbed by the Assembly. The use of this infrastructure therefore offers a cost-effective way of integrating CEE legislators.

Participation in the NAA also facilitates easy contacts with NATO, SHAPE and other Alliance-related institutions to which the Assembly has easy access.

The activities carried out in 1991 should be assessed in different groups: normal Assembly activities; Resc-Roth seminars; and collaborative meetings.

CEE participation in normal assembly activities

The NAA has granted CEE parliaments the status of "associate delegates". Under this status, each CEE parliament appoints a delegation, normally 5 to 6 people, to the bi-annual sessions of the Assembly. These delegates participate fully in the two-day committee meetings, the

plenary session, and in all associated activities (it should be noted that CEE legislators are already active in the Assembly's political groups). The delegates are encouraged to appoint a member to each of the Assembly's five committees. They receive ahead of time the reports and resolutions that will be discussed and debated by the committees. They participate actively in the discussion of these documents during the committee session. They are also encouraged to submit national or individual contributions to these reports, and several have already done so.

It is also the intention to include CEE legislators in the activities of Sub-Committees and Working Groups which meet throughout the year. However, for a variety of organizational reasons, this has only been possible on one occasion. A Hungarian legislator expressed interest in the work of the Sub-Committee on Defence and Security Co-operation between Europe and North America and joined this Sub-Committee during its visit to North America.

It is worth noting that Assembly bi-annual meetings are hosted by member countries on a rotational basis. Attendance at these meetings gives CEE legislators exposure to a wide range of countries.

CEE participation in Rose-Roth seminars

The Rose-Roth seminars are an addition and complement to normal NAA activities. They focus on issues of particular interest and concern to CEE legislators where the Assembly's membership enjoys appropriate expertise and experience and where the Assembly is well placed to organize such a meeting. For example, seminars have been held on civil-military relations, particularly the issue of parliamentary involvement with and scrutiny of the armed forces and defence expenditure, and on regional stability, witness the seminars on Baltic security. Seminars were also held on defence conversion and the role of the CSCE.

These seminars bring together a manageable group of Alliance parliamentarians, parliamentarians from CEE, NATO, SHAPE and national officials and independent experts. CEE delegations are asked normally to send two members per delegation. The total number of participants is normally between 40 and 60.

These seminars are either sponsored by a member Parliament of the Assembly, in this case the host parliament is responsible for providing the facilities, the organization - in conjunction with the NAA Secretariat - and a substantial proportion of the costs. Or they are co-sponsored by parliaments in CEE, in which case the host parliament provides the local facility and - again in conjunction with the NAA Secretariat - does all the necessary organization. In this case, for obvious reasons to do with their economic conditions, every effort is made to reduce the cost absorbed by the local parliament.

These seminars are intended to create a regular dialogue between legislators on issues related to European security broadly defined. The advantages of such seminars are several. They give visibility to the particular issues, allow CEE legislators to voice their specific concerns and to discuss these concerns and perspectives with their Western counterparts, and improve mutual understanding.

The hosting of these seminars is eagerly sought by countries in CEE because it provides visibility of a particular preoccupation and problem, proof of NATO's interest and involvement, and also valuable training experience for the local parliamentary staff in organizing such meetings.

CEE participation in collaborative meetings

These are seminars organized and partially sponsored by other organizations who seek Assembly involvement. A good example was the conference in the Hague organized by the Netherlands Atlantic Committee who asked the Assembly to provide several Alliance members and "associate delegates". The overheads for this conference, i.e. the facilities, speakers, logistic etc, and all accommodation and meals, had been met by the Netherlands Atlantic Committee. This form of collaboration represents a cost-effective way of ensuring CEE participation.

Evaluation

Thus far there have been no problems with the programme. The "associate delegates" have responded well in terms of attendance and participation.

The composition of each delegation is a national responsibility. Parliaments are invited through their Speaker or President to nominate delegations to the NAA. The Assembly has encouraged CEE parliaments to try to ensure that the delegation represents the political mix of the parliament, and has advised that the natural centres of these delegations are the foreign affairs and defence committees of their respective parliaments. The CEE parliaments are also advised wherever possible to nominate delegations for the life of the parliament, as with Assembly delegations. This ensures a degree of continuity. The NAA also insists on the appointment of a staff member who becomes the point of contact, travels with the delegation and often acts as an interpreter.

Because of the state of the political process in several CEE countries, there is always a risk that delegations will become the preserve of a few or involve people whose current role or previous role would not seem ideal for participation in a process aimed at strengthening the democratic process. However, passing judgement on the appropriateness of delegates is to venture into risky territory. Thus far it has not been necessary. The NAA has been satisfied with the political and functional mix of the CEE delegations and with the quality of their participation in Assembly sessions.

The NAA has written to all CEE "associate delegates" requesting their comments and criticism of the Rose-Roth Initiative. These replies (including some who are not funded by AID) are attached.

The replies given by the various delegations speak for themselves. As can be seen these delegations place very high value in their participation in NAA meetings. They place considerable emphasis on the information and education side of the Assembly. The fact that they can acquire information all too rarely available at home - they all speak highly of Assembly reports - and have access to a wide range of views. They are able to articulate

their own problems and make the West more aware of their national perspectives. At the same time, these concerns are placed in the broader context of Western security. The mutual value of this interchange has been most clearly in the Baltic seminars.

At the more practical level, they are exposed to a wide range of parliamentary practice and procedures.

It is also evident that their participation would be either impossible or greatly reduced without financial assistance.

The statement by the Bulgarian Parliament: "our only wish being to provide for the participation of as many parliamentarians as possible since this is an excellent school for them" is a typical reaction.

From the Assembly's point of view, the experience to date has been wholly satisfactory. It should be noted that the extra work that this has meant for a relatively small secretariat should not be underestimated, but both the additional work and costs have been absorbed within the Assembly's normal work structure.

On the question of languages, which can be a major problem in organising this sort of work because of the horrendous cost of interpretation, the Assembly currently provides interpretation for its bi-annual sessions in English, French, German, Italian and Spanish, and now Russian. In the latter respect, we have been able to secure Russian interpreters from Moscow at extremely competitive prices which we hope will go far to solving the problems felt by many of the delegations who do not speak one of the languages for which we provide.

The Rose-Roth seminars have been a very substantial success and countries are literally queuing up to offer themselves as venues. AID has received summary reports of all Rose-Roth seminars. Longer and more detailed reports have been published. The quality and content of these seminars can be assessed from these publications.

In terms of our future efforts, we would like to put an equal emphasis on the training of parliamentary staff, firstly because we believe that there is a tremendous lack of qualified staff and secondly because for the most part parliamentary staff are permanent and therefore the investment is enduring. We obviously aim to help staff working for foreign and security committees or working in their international departments.

For the same reason, we would like to also help in the creation of research institutes in order to create the sort of security culture which prevails in the West which encourages the open discussion of defence and other issues and the dissemination of the information and the provision of third party objective analysis. The Assembly has its own stagiaire programme to which it attracts post-graduate students and those from research institutes from Alliance countries. We have recently opened this stagiaire programme to CEE, and we have had a Romanian and a Hungarian researchers from their respective parliaments, currently we have a Latvian and two Russians from research institutes in Moscow. We were disappointed that the AID turned down the funding of further stagiaires and this is something we would like to pursue in the future.

We would also like assistance in beginning to develop relations with the CIS.

Finally, we believe that there is need for much greater co-ordination in these parliamentary initiatives. We have made substantial efforts to find out which parliaments are involved with bilateral programmes and we have been in contact with numerous international organizations to find out their fields of activities. However, in this area much remains to be done to avoid duplication of efforts. When we do find convergence we have attempted, where possible, to co-operate, hence our emphasis on collaborative projects. Our programme is co-ordinated closely with that of NATO so that we take advantage of groups who come to NATO and vice-versa.

We believe the NAA's "outreach" programme is therefore making an important contribution to strengthening democracy throughout Central and Eastern Europe.



ВЯРХОУНЫ САВЕТ РЭСПУБЛІКІ БЕЛАРУСЬ

ВЕРХОВНЫЙ СОВЕТ РЕСПУБЛИКИ БЕЛАРУСЬ
THE SUPREME SOVIET OF THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS

270010, г. Минск, тел. 29-60-12, факс (0172) 77-37-84

199 г. № _____

Mr Simon Lunn
Deputy Secretary General
North Atlantic Assembly
Brussels, Belgium
Fax: 514 1847

Supreme Soviet of the
Republic of Belarus
Fax: (0172) 27-37-84

Dear Mr Lunn,

The Rose-Roth initiative aimed at the development of parliamentary democracy in the Central and East European States without doubt finds support in the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Belarus.

Representatives of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Belarus have taken part in seminars organized in Vilnius, Riga, Brussels, Moscow, as well as in the Spring Session of the North Atlantic Assembly in Banff, and in a seminar in Athens. A representative of our staff has also taken part in the educational programme of the Assembly.

We think the Rose-Roth initiative is useful, first of all by a possibility for parliamentarians of Belarus to participate in the inter-parliamentary discussions and afterwards to find decisions to be taken according to a number of international agreements.

Secondly, many of the reports presented by the North Atlantic Assembly members and documents of seminars have been distributed in the Supreme Soviet of the Republic, and they appeared to be very useful beyond all question.

Keeping in mind activity of the five committees of the Assembly - political, defence and security, economic, on civil affairs, science and technology, as well as that of the multi-party representation, it would be desirable for us to take part in the work of the committees and party groups.

Our endeavour to extend a sphere of direct relations between the representatives of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Belarus

and the NAA members is, to our regret, restrained by the language barrier. That is why participation of an interpreter would be very important.

I look forward to meet you in the near future and remain,

Yours sincerely,



V. Sholodanov
Vice-Chairman of the
Supreme Soviet of the
Republic of Belarus



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

OF THE REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA

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Mr. SIMON LUNN

DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL

No 102.26.192

Sofia, 16 27 October 1992

Dear Mr Lunn,

The Roze-Roth initiative is exceptionally useful to the Bulgarian parliament and its Members. These seminars provide opportunities for particularly valuable contacts and explanation of the positions and principles underlying the policies of Bulgaria in the sphere of national security. They are a real way of integrating this country to NATO.

The seminar in Athens on the regional stability in the Balkans was of special importance because there were discussed issues directly related to this region and measures were sought for more efficient involvement of the European and Euroatlant in collective security structures in overcoming the crisis in the Balkans.

The participants in these seminars are making efforts to brief the specialized Parliamentary Committees, the government institutions and the mass media on the results of the seminars.

Bulgaria has no critical remarks to make with respect to the undoubtedly very high level of organization, its only wish being to provide for the participation of as many parliamentarians as possible since this is an excellent school for them.

The issue facing this country is to make a realistic assessment free of any preconceived attitudes with respect to the events in Eastern and Central Europe and get the opportunity to integrate the countries in this region into uniting Europe. The issues related to the overcoming of the considerable discrepancies in the levels of the democratic development, the economic priorities and the solution of ethnical and religious problems might be the topics of next seminars to come.

Yours respectfully,

Nikolai Stankov

Chairman of the National Security Committee of
the National Assembly

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FEDERAL ASSEMBLY
CZECH AND SLOVAK FEDERAL REPUBLIC

Vinohradská 1, Prague 1
tel.n.: 267 068, fax n.: 261 205

Prague, September 1, 1992

Dear Mr. Lunn,

We are very happy that we could at least partly participate in the Rose-Roth initiative. We consider such an initiative very important especially for new democracies which came into being in Eastern and Central Europe.

For these new democracies it seems vitally important to be able to discuss problems and share information with stable societies. For a very long time the whole region of Central and Eastern Europe was deprived of the right to free and unbiased information. There was also a lack of discussion of any kind as people could only passively accept what had been said. Therefore, we consider the seminars you organize not only a source of information but also a very important means of education in many ways, especially of those participants from our regions.

We are also aware of the fact that Central and Eastern European countries very often face similar problems. Your seminars again provide them with the possibility to meet, discuss, be informed, come up with various ideas and alternative solutions.

With regard to the fact that after the abolishment of the Warsaw Pact the whole region of Central and Eastern Europe was left without a common defence and taking into account many local conflicts in Eastern and Southern Europe, it is a top priority and vitally important for our region to get involved in defence

structures operating in Western Europe. The North Atlantic Assembly, representing all NATO member states, is an ideal forum for prospective negotiations.

Generally speaking and regarding the situation of our country, the main topics we would like to be covered by seminars/events should concern security and defence issues, economical matters and human rights.

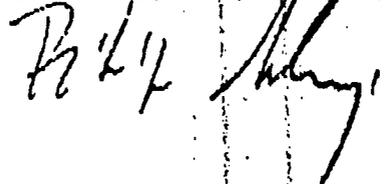
We also very much appreciate your plan to provide training to parliamentary staff. We apparently feel a lack of highly qualified professionals who would be able to assist MPs.

Last but not least, the fact that all costs connected with your seminars and trainings are covered by the NAA, makes it much easier for us to participate.

To sum it up, the Rose-Roth initiative with all its activities and programmes is accepted with gratitude and we are looking forward to our future co-operation.

Best Regards,

Filip Šadivý
First Vice President



Fax: 32-2-5141847



DEPUTY SPEAKER OF THE
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
REPUBLIC OF HUNGARY

Mr. Simon Luhn
Deputy Secretary General
of the N.A.A.

Bruxelles
Place du Petit Sablon 3.

Dear Mr. Deputy Secretary General,

In answering your letter of 31 July 1992, on the Rose-Roth Initiative, I have the honour to summarize our views as follows:

- According to the unanimous opinion of the Hungarian parliamentarians who participated in your programmes all were extremely satisfied. They consider it as a main achievement, having had the possibility to become acquainted with the practical functioning of the different parliaments and parliamentary institutions, i.e. they can better understand their legislative activity.

At the same time they had also access to all kind of information connected with the defence and security issues.

- We have prepared written reports on each of the items of the seminars and the sessions at which our parliamentarians had participated and sent them to the minister of Foreign Affairs, to the minister of Defence and to other ministers, if the topic fell into their sphere of competence. The reports and the attached resolutions were also sent to each member of the Foreign Affairs Committee and the Defence Committee. In some cases we managed to build into the draft bills some informations or ideas, which we have experienced from your seminars. E.g. the bill on our national defence.

As far as the future topics are concerned we would suggest the following items:

- "MEHR LICHT!" Free access of parliamentarians to informations on defence, the problems of secrecy and parliamentary control of the executive power, the role of experts in the procedure of bill making.

- Programme budgets, basic estimates, etc.

- Conditions in order to integrate the national defence forces into the western security systems.

- Regular armies and drafted armies; the structure of armed forces, their interrelations inside the given country.

Comments on organisation: We are satisfied with the current organisation practice. This being said, we would suggest, however, to examine the possibility to broaden the information sources of the fact finding missions which are visiting a given country or region on behalf of the committees.

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All national delegations ought to have i.e. the possibility to send any document or written information to the committee rapporteur who is charged to prepare a report on a country, region or subject.

It would be also very useful if a data base would be placed at our disposal; thus would help us to obtain a detailed information on the legislation of the different democratic countries.

Hoping that some of our comments and opinions could be taken into consideration when planning and considering the future activity of the highly appreciated Rose-Roth initiative,

I remain

Budapest, 30 September 1992.

Yours sincerely,


Dr. Alajos Dornbach

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**PRESIDENT
OF THE SUPREME COUNCIL
OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA**

Vilnius, 14 August 1992

Mr. Simon Lunn
Deputy Secretary General
North Atlantic Assembly
Brussels

Dear Mr. Lunn,

In response to your letter of July 31, first of all I would like to thank you sincerely for the constant attention shown by the North Atlantic Assembly to Lithuania and for its benevolent assistance.

We appreciate very much the Rose-Roth initiative and the programme in which our members of parliament have been participating for a year. This programme is beneficial to us in several aspects. First and foremost, it grants a possibility to our members of parliament to acquire more experience and the knowledge they need so much. Secondly, through our participation in the activities of the North Atlantic Assembly we have still another possibility to inform its members about our major security concerns and, what is especially important, to discuss and better understand them within the context of universal security issues. It is of special importance to us that the North Atlantic Assembly draws its attention to the illegal presence of the Russian army on the territory of the Republic of Lithuania and to the problem of its withdrawal; and the formation of a special working group is an indication of this. It is also very important that we have the opportunity to participate in the debates over the primary current security problems and express our views of them. This helps us a great deal in keeping with time.

The members of parliament of the Republic of Lithuania who participate in this programme have defined it as a very useful and significant one. It is not only in the Parliament that we use the information on the issues debated at the North Atlantic Assembly but also in other state institutions such as the National Defence Ministry and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

We are grateful to the North Atlantic Assembly for having organized two seminars (and is planning to arrange the third) dedicated to the security problems of the Baltic States. We hope that in future this subject will not be forgotten. Perhaps it would be expedient to discuss within the framework of the NAA the perspective of the East-West relations and the possibilities for the integration of the Central Europe. In our opinion, the seminar "The European Security and the CSCE" arranged in Brussels on 12-14 February 1992 was very helpful. This topic, too, could remain on the NAA's agenda.

And to end my comments on your programme, I would like to add that judging from the response of our members of parliament all the seminars and conferences were perfectly organized, and the experience was not only interesting but also a very pleasurable one.

Once again thank you for your efforts and support.

Sincerely yours,

Vytautas Landsbergis

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KANCLARZKA SEJMU RZECZYPOSPOLITEJ POLSKIEJ
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Do/To: MR. SIMON LUNN
Deputy Secretary General

Od/From: Director of the Bureau of the Interparliamentary
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pages: 2

TELEFAX N° 0 32 2 514 18 47

Re: The Rose Roth Initiative

In response to your 31 July letter I wish to inform you that:

1. The seminars are necessary and useful. They offer opportunities for free-wheeling exchanges of views on fundamental issues of the world today, foster elaboration of opinions fit for presentation to parliaments, governments and economic institutions;
2. When a secretary is accompanying a delegation of the Polish Sejm to a seminar (a secretary is an official of the Chancellery of Sejm), a report is subsequently drawn up for circulation in parliamentary circles (primarily among members of the Sejm and Senate Committees of Foreign Affairs and National Defence) and sent to relevant government departments. Reports published by the International Secretariat are transmitted to members of the Sejm and Senate delegation, to the NAA and sent on to the Committees concerned. When the parliamentarians alone participate in seminars, as a rule they report orally to their respective Committees;
3. One could contemplate participation in seminars, apart from parliamentarians also of advisers and experts, not only in their capacity of referent;
4. On its part, the Chancellery of the Sejm is authorized to suggest the following topics for a possible seminar :

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a) CONSTRUCTION of a democratic system and transformations in the armed forces: Experience of the Central and East European States and those in the Iberian Peninsula;

b) Regional security co-operation.

c) Implementation of the FCE Treaty.

It is proposed that Warsaw be considered as the venue for such seminar.

b. We feel that the selection of venues where seminars are held should be also motivated by travel facilities.

Sincerely yours

Tomaz Knothe
Tomaz Knothe

Parlamentul României

Mr Simon Lunn
Deputy Secretary General
North Atlantic Assembly

1st October 1992

Dear Mr Lunn,

It is a pleasure for me to answer your letter concerning the Rose-Roth initiative.

I think your programme is of great mutual benefit, as it shows the wish of the NAA to dialogue with the Parliaments of the countries outside the Alliance, with the asserted aim of identifying together solutions to the major issues that appear in the continuously changing context of contemporary world. I think this openness and the wish to adjust are major achievements of the Interparliamentary Organisation of the Atlantic Alliance.

The seminars organized in the framework of the Rose-Roth initiative enabled the parliamentarians to have an image closer to the reality about the activities carried on by NATO and its parliamentary organization, about the issues that interest the organization and the foreseen solutions, about its asserted aims and, in general, about the functioning of an interparliamentary body. Moreover, these seminars were as many occasions for them to get to know various viewpoints and exchange opinions about current issues.

The Romanian parliamentarians who took part in these activities presented their comments to the Foreign Affairs Committee - a joint committee of the two Houses of the Parliament of Romania that has over 60 members. The respective documents were debated both in the Committee and the Standing Bureaus of the House of Deputies and the Senate.

Since you also mentioned the participation in the NAA sessions, I would like you to know that I appreciated the themes debated, which, although reflecting preponderantly the concerns of the member States - which is normal - were very interesting and instructive for the other participants, too. I would also like to make special mention of NAA's concern for ensuring an equal footing to all the associate delegations.

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Apart from this commendable equal treatment, however, I think more concrete and efficient forms of participation of these delegations should be sought, in the spirit of dialogue that you have established.

For instance, it would be interesting, both for the NAA and the associate delegations, if reports on various themes would be presented on a rotation basis. In this way, the delegations in charge of the reports could get acquainted with different viewpoints expressed by other delegations before the final stage of presentation of the documents, which would enable them better understand these viewpoints and their motivations and oblige them to a more complex effort of analysis and synthesis.

I appreciated the variety of the themes approached up to now during the seminars and conferences organized within the Rose-Roth initiative. However, I think more emphasis should be placed on economic matters, seeing that the purpose of these seminars is to support the efforts of Central and East-European countries, all of which are faced with the same kind of problems - and these are, first and foremost, of economic nature. In fact, I think it should not be forgotten that these countries are the pioneers of an international experiment and that, taking into account their share on a world scale, the elaboration and the adoption of optimum solutions to the problems they are faced with should be a major concern. Moreover, I think that some of these seminars could debate themes related to environmental protection, taking as a starting point the current conditions and the possibilities of these countries; the solution to these problems can only become effective and efficient by the extension of the capacity to suppress the causes of pollution - and this means reaching a certain economic and technologic standard.

Therefore, after this first stage in which the NAA successfully approached problems specific to Central and Eastern Europe, the next stage should lay stress on the identification of viable solutions to these problems and the rapprochement of the viewpoints concerning these solutions, so that a social and political consensus may be reached in this area, both internally and internationally, leading to the fastest possible mobilization of material and human resources in each country, with the aim of continuously improving the living standard, preventing social conflicts and, on this basis, spreading and consolidating a feeling of security and mutual confidence so necessary to the stability and the security of the entire European continent.

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I would also like to add that an essential condition of a more efficient approach of these issues lies with the improvement of the exchange of information, both at the level of conceptual and theoretic ensembles and at the level of programmes and means for making them operational.

As for the organization, the Romanian parliamentarians appreciated the open and informal way in which discussions were conducted, as well as the care for each technical and administrative detail.

I do hope these ideas will be useful for your activity.

Yours sincerely,

Oliviu Blaga

Oliviu Blaga
Vice-President of the Senate



Simon Lunn
Deputy Secretary General
North Atlantic Assembly
Brussels

Unofficial translation

Dear Mr. Lunn,

1. The Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation, its parliamentary group highly appreciate the activities of North Atlantic Assembly directed at developing interparliamentary contacts in a broad Euroatlantic context and at contributing to the consolidation of parliamentary democracy in Central and Eastern Europe. We welcome the activities conducted in the framework of the initiative of the distinguished members of U.S. Congress Hon. Ch. Rose and Senator W. Roth and consider this program to be extremely useful. Among its strong sides we would see an opportunity to directly exchange views and information on perspective ways and means of safeguarding security and developing co-operation under new world order, as well as contributing to a more impartial and deep understanding by the parliamentarians of interdependence of nations in modern world.

2. This program has allowed the participating parliamentarians to better grasp western parliamentarism's traditions and to understand principles of functioning of NAA and its bodies. Information on the conducted activities has been regularly reported to the leaders of the Supreme Soviet, on a number of specific items, including in particular defense conversion and Baltic situation, the parliament gave instructions to governmental bodies. All information materials received through NAA channels are processed in the interests of highest governmental bodies by Russia's Institute for Strategic Studies.

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Participation of our parliamentarians and experts in preparing reports for NAA sessions is a perspective direction of the co-operation between the Supreme Soviet of Russia and NAA. This year a report on Western aid to Russia has been prepared on a request by Rt.Hon.Bruce George. According to an agreement with Lord Lucas of Chilworth our People's deputy Mr. Evgueni M.Kojokin is ready to act as a Co-Rapporteur on national minorities in Europe (these respective texts have been sent to you).

In accordance with an agreement with NAA Economic Committee (Mr. G.Gaud) and Defense and Security Committee (Mr. K.Voigt) our experts are completing an analysis of economic reforms in Russia and Nordic security concept. These materials will be addressed to you soon.

3. We see no grounds to criticize Rose - Roth initiative program. However, we would like to express certain considerations in connection with the associate members' status, first of all as far as their non-participation in the Standing Committee's activities are concerned. We are completely aware that NAA has its own internal problems, but a following question arises: removing associate members from Standing Committee's activities, isn't it a certain form of discrimination? Some ideas, discussed a huis clos at session in Banff, for example, on resolution on Yugoslavia, appeared to be a complete surprise for us when taken to the open plenary session. Don't you think that a solution to this problem could be found following the example of dividing functions between North Atlantic Council and NACC, i.e. by establishing North Atlantic Assembly for Cooperation while preserving NAA?

4. Among the most critical problems which should be discussed in the Assembly's framework stands the role of parliaments in crisis management in an effort to overcome a threat to international security and stability. Recent experience, including that obtained by Russian Supreme Soviet, clearly indicates that parliaments and parliamentarians can and must play an active role in de-escalating armed conflicts and in negotiations directed at peaceful settlement of crises in

certain areas of Euroatlantic region. We suppose that a seminar on this topic sponsored by NAA could take place in Moscow in 1993 or 1994 under the auspices of the Committee on Defense and Security Issues of Russian Supreme Soviet on the basis of Russia's Institute for Strategic Studies. Besides this we think that the role of parliaments in the transition of Central and Eastern Europe to a market economy requires a serious consideration too.

5. Thank you very much for a wonderful organization of NAA activities. We hope that with the adoption by the U.S. Congress of a Support for Freedom Bill the financing of NAA activities will be facilitated.

Please take into account that many of our parliamentarians taking part in NAA activities lack foreign languages' knowledge and require interpretation service. For the purpose of practical economy please inform, what option seems more economically preferable for you - to have our own expert-interpreter being included into the delegations of Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation or to provide professional interpreters through NAA secretariat.

Sincerely yours,

N. T. Ryabov

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