



Der Spiegel: Official document confirms that NATO promised not to expand eastwards

Description

Vladimir Putin had earlier claimed that Moscow had been “hoodwinked and brazenly deceived” by Western countries by promising that NATO would not expand “not one inch eastwards”. NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg, however, vehemently claimed that no one had made such promises to the USSR

It turns out that they did. Der Spiegel published an article stating that a secret document was discovered in the British National Archives by an American political scientist, Boston University professor Joshua Shiffrin.

It is clear from the document that Britain, the US, Germany and France agreed that membership of eastern European countries in NATO was “categorically unacceptable”

“We have made it clear to the Soviet Union – in the 2 plus 4 talks, as well as in other negotiations – that we do not intend to benefit from the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Eastern Europe... NATO must not expand eastwards, either formally or informally”, – Der Spiegel quoted the US official as saying.

MY 4 IPTS: QUADRIPARTITE MEETING OF POLITICAL DIRECTORS, BONN, 6
MARCH: SECURITY IN CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE
SUMMARY
1. UK CIRCULATES PROMISED PAPER ON SECURITY IN CENTRAL AND
EASTERN EUROPE. GENERAL A AGREEMENT THAT MEMBERSHIP OF NATO AND
SECURITY GUARANTEES UNACCEPTABLE. AGREEMENT TO CONSIDER
STATEMENT BY SPRING NAC INDICATING NATO'S INTEREST IN SECURITY
AND STABILITY IN EASTERN EUROPE. THICKENING OF BILATERAL
RELATIONS AND NATO/EAST EUROPEAN CONTACTS.
DETAIL
2. CHROBOG (GERMANY) SAID WE NEEDED NEW IDEAS ON HOW TO PROVIDE
FOR THE SECURITY OF CENTRAL AND EAST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES. WE HAD
MADE IT CLEAR DURING THE 2+4 NEGOTIATIONS THAT WE WOULD NOT
EXTEND NATO BEYOND THE ELBE (SIC). WE COULD NOT THEREFORE OFFER
MEMBERSHIP OF NATO TO POLAND AND THE OTHERS. WE MIGHT HOWEVER
CONSIDER REFERRING TO OUR INTEREST IN THESE COUNTRIES IN FUTURE
NATO DECLARATIONS. FURTHER STEPS COULD BE TAKEN IN THE CSCE AND
THROUGH BILATERAL AGREEMENTS.

Russia has opposed NATO's eastward expansion, citing relevant promises from Western countries. "And they say to us: 'Where is it written on a piece of paper? It's not there? Well, fuck off, we don't give a damn about your concerns,'" the Russian president said.

In response, Jens Stoltenberg then said that the North Atlantic Alliance "never promised not to expand". In an interview with the same Der Spiegel, he stated that "there has never been such a promise, there has never been such a backroom deal, it is simply absurd". But now Der Spiegel publishes a document that says quite the opposite in black and white. NATO promised. And it has not kept its promise. And the way in which the West zealously and aggressively demands something from Russia makes one wonder why things are like this.

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