Topic 1:

**NATO Military Exercises in UK:**

Beginning on March 26th, thousands of military personnel from the UK, the US, France, Germany, Sweden, Estonia and other NATO allies took part in a joint military exercise in Scotland consisting of active military training and, for the first time, electronic warfare training. These exercises will take place over two weeks and coincide with NATO personnel and hardware arriving in Poland on the 26th of March. During this weekend, 125 pieces of military equipment and 550 troops from the US and the UK landed in Poland.

https://www.rt.com/uk/382379-scotland-nato-military-exercise/

**Russian ties to the Taliban:**

Over the past few years, Russia has had a complicated relationship with the Taliban. Officially, they consider the Taliban to be a terrorist organization, however they have stated that they have a mutual interest in their fight against the Islamic State. Recently, General Scaparrotti, the Supreme Allied Commander in Europe for NATO said in a hearing that the Russian Federation have increased influence in Afghanistan and could be supplying the organization to undermine the US and NATO allies in the region. Statements out of Moscow have called these allegations fabricated and said that they are being used to justify the failures of the allied coalition in Afghanistan.

**Topic II**

**Montenegro Update:**

As recently as March 27, 2017 the United States Senate voted 97-2 to support Montenegro in joining the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. It is expected that during the final week of March or first week of April, the US Senate places a final vote on Montenegro’s NATO bid. Within the United States, arguments of accepting the country into the Treaty to fend off Russian interests in Eastern Europe. This argument is prevalent in not only accepting Montenegro into the Organization, but also other nations in Eastern Europe such as Ukraine.


NATO Member States are expected to give the final verdict of whether or not to accept Montenegro into the Treaty by May of 2017, the time of the NATO summit. Currently, there have been 26 Member States that have ratified Montenegro’s membership. It must noted again that in order to fully accept a new nation into NATO, there must be unanimity. Montenegro surpassed possibly it’s largest obstacle in obtaining the approval of the United States. The following article goes in further depth about the process as well as more details of Russia’s point of view regarding Montenegro.

Reminders for NATO

The following information is taken from the UMLMUN NATO page.

Voting Procedure

Unanimity is needed in order to reach a decision and to adopt a Draft Communique. Each Member State has one vote on each Draft Communique. Abstentions are permissible and do not count against unanimity, being interpreted as an absence of the abstaining state from voting procedure. Unfriendly amendments, which change the substantial meaning or content of the communique, do not require unanimity but a simple majority.

The Communique

The North Atlantic Council publishes communiques. A Draft Communique is the equivalent of a Draft Resolution and will require no special formatting different from that of other committees. These documents address a particular problem or issue relevant to NATO and are submitted in a draft form under the sponsorship of the delegates working in the Council. They are binding to the NATO Member States. In the communiques, delegates must address an opinion to a given situation and recommend actions to be taken by the NATO, similar to what would happen in a Draft Resolution from the United Nations.