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MADN-SOC

05 NOVEMBER 2022

MEMORANDUM FOR SCUSA 73

SUBJECT: Europe and the United States: Maintaining Common Values and Interests

1. **Issue:** The purpose of this memorandum is to propose suggestions as to how the US and Europe can maintain common values and interests.

2. **Strategic Analysis:**

a. Russia's Invasion of Ukraine

Russia's invasion of Ukraine has resulted in a major shift in US-European relations. The war shocked the world and drove European states away from Moscow. Russia has weaponized energy as it is the main supplier of gas to Europe, such as frequently shutting off Nord Stream 1, causing gas prices to soar in Europe and around the world. The US and Europe have committed themselves to the Ukrainian cause and to deter further Russian aggression. Now the continent has seen a renewal in its partnership with the US on both a military and economic front. The war has also caused a major refugee crisis as millions of Ukrainian and thousands of Russian refugees have sought shelter across Europe. The war in Ukraine poses an inflection point for US-European relations as states seek to strengthen their ties with one another against Russia.

b. Disinformation and Polarization

Both in the US and abroad, Russian and Chinese propaganda has worked to manipulate our ways of thinking as well as incite dissension and conflict in European-US relationships. Social media and military posturing are frequently used as means of propaganda. Such attempts have contributed to the rise of illiberal democratic movements in some European countries and have led to political instability within both domestic and international organizations. This has resulted in voices from both Europe and the US to advocate for isolationism and an opposition to the US-European order.

c. Economic Uncertainty

The economic crisis sparked by the war in Ukraine and the pandemic has left both US and European markets vulnerable. With an energy shortage in Europe compounded by recent high inflation, the state of the economy has led to political upheaval across the West. Furthermore, Russia has recently weaponized its supply of energy to Europe. Without energy diversification, Russia wields significant political power over those nations that rely on its hydrocarbon assets.

d. Communication

In the past, poor communication between NATO allies and partners has inhibited shared strategic objectives. During previous administrations, anti-NATO and EU statements often drove European allies away from American interests. The war in Ukraine, however, stands as a model for allied intelligence sharing, with classified material being published early and often to educate allies and the public about Putin's intentions in Ukraine. Improving transparency and communication remains central to improving efficiency among NATO allies and partners.

3. **Relevant National Interests:**

- a. Countering Russian and Chinese influence in the transatlantic partnership.
- b. Strengthening and maintaining long term transatlantic relations.
- c. Promoting climate and energy security in Europe.
- d. Developing enduring economic and political stability in the US and with our allies and partners.

4. **Recommendation:**

Improve Europe's energy and economic stability.

a. Foster energy security in Europe by investing in green energy sources for the long-term.

- i. Create an institutional framework (e.g. with investment fund, oversight group) for the promotion, development, and sharing of green energy technology.
- ii. Invest in bilateral research of recycling lithium and alternative sources of relevant rare-earth metals in conjunction with Europe.

b. Bolster transatlantic interdependence by investing in Liquid Natural Gas (LNG) terminals in Europe to sever dependency on Russian gas.

- i. Increase US gas export capacity and European import capacity.

Counter further Russian aggression.

a. Continue support of Ukraine and integrate Finland and Sweden into NATO.

- i. Continue arming Ukraine and providing intelligence and logistical support.

b. Assist the EU Common Defense Security Policy by contributing logistic and strategic support and increasing multinational training.

- i. Increase military presence and NATO cooperation in countries that request support.

c. Maintain economic pressure on Russia.

- i. Lead European allies to sanction Russia.

d. Supplement European supply shortages to prevent European trade participation with Russia.

Combat propaganda and disinformation.

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- a. Control consumer data in social media platforms
  - i. Encourage social media platforms to secure user data and solely sell data to vetted companies for the purpose of targeted advertising.
- b. Improve resources to fight cyber-terrorist groups.
  - i. Classify hacker groups as terrorist organizations
  - ii. Suggest policies that make nations more accountable for the actions of their hackers
- c. Encourage social media companies to label accounts if they promote extreme political content

Strengthen relationship networks between Europe and the US

- a. Increase study abroad opportunities
  - b. Increase funding for international scholarships
  - c. Decrease travel restrictions between Europe and the US
  - d. Set up meetings between European Union members and US legislative members.
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