

MEETING OF THE POLITICAL CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE FORMED IN  
ACCORDANCE WITH THE WARSAW TREATY  
Prague, January 1956

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27 January 1956

STATEMENT OF THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS  
OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA  
Comrade RAIKO DAMIANOV  
27 January 1956

Dear Comrades!

It has been more than eight months since we signed the Warsaw Treaty on Friendship, Cooperation, and Mutual Assistance, creating a solid basis for our own security and the security of all peaceful nations in Europe.

The Warsaw Treaty serves as an expression of the desire of its member-states to take common measures to preserve peace in Europe and to defend this peace with all their might. With the full support of the 600 million people of the great Chinese nation, the alliance of eight peaceful European states represents a powerful, insurmountable force for the protection of peace in the entire world.

Today, we have gathered here, in the heroic city of Prague, the Prague that survived the darkness of Hitler's occupation and the glorious struggle for liberation from the fascist yoke. We can now state with complete satisfaction that the policy implemented by the Warsaw Treaty countries has led to major successes in the preservation and consolidation of peace. The State Treaty with Austria was signed in Vienna on the day following our signing of the Treaty on Friendship, Cooperation, and Mutual Assistance among our countries. This was initiated by the Soviet Union. The government of the People's Republic of Bulgaria welcomed the conclusion of the State Treaty with Austria as a valuable contribution to the lessening of international tensions by recognizing the permanent neutrality of Austria. When we signed the Warsaw Treaty, our governments announced that they would continue to take decisive measures to achieve an overall reduction of armed forces and to ban atomic, hydrogen, and other types of weapons of mass destruction.

The Bulgarian government demonstrated in deed that it is prepared to work toward further détente by cutting its armed forces by 18,000 people and reducing the terms of military service. There is no doubt that in light of the overall situation in the Balkans, these efforts of the Bulgarian government present new proof of Bulgaria's sincere aspirations to create an atmosphere of mutual trust and security in this part of the world.

The historic meeting of Soviet and Yugoslav leaders in Belgrade marked a significant turning point in relations between Bulgaria and Yugoslavia. The Bulgarian people accepted

the Belgrade Declaration with great satisfaction because it pointed to a real path that leads to the restoration and further development of friendly relations between Bulgaria and Yugoslavia. Thus, new favorable opportunities were created for improved relations with Bulgaria's southern neighbors – Greece and Turkey.

The Bulgarian people and their government warmly welcomed the positive results achieved at the Geneva Summit and viewed them as a great success for the cause of peace. The current meeting in Prague is taking place at a time of lingering, fresh impressions from the recent trip of Comrades Bulganin and Khrushchev to India, Burma, and Afghanistan. This historic visit and its results confirmed once again that there are grand opportunities for coexistence based on mutual respect, sovereignty, and non-interference in the internal affairs of other states. The Bulgarian government fully supports these principles and is implementing them on a practical level in its foreign policy.

However, we cannot turn a blind eye to the fact that the preachers of “cold war” are trying in every way possible to counter the efforts to strengthen peace and security. On numerous occasions the Warsaw Treaty member-countries have warned that the restoration of German militarism through the Paris Agreements will create a real threat to peace in Europe and in the entire world. The decisions approved at the recent session of the aggressive North Atlantic bloc clearly reflect the intentions of that military bloc's leadership to expedite the resurrection of German militarism and to present the restoration of the German *Wehrmacht* as a *fait accompli* to the other nations.

In this situation of expedited remilitarization of West Germany, it is quite understandable why, for the first time in the history of the German people, the National People's Army is being created in the German Democratic Republic. The task of this army is to defend the main interests of its people. The Bulgarian people, who were subjected to the bloody aggression of German militarism on several occasions, fully understand the significance of these events, which extend beyond the borders of Germany. We are convinced that the creation of the People's Army of the GDR will contribute to the struggle for the unification of the German state and the consolidation of peace.

Dear Comrades:

The People's Republic of Bulgaria considers the struggle for preserving and strengthening peace its most important task. The international situation has improved even further since the signing of the Warsaw Treaty. Our country has never had such a solid international standing and so many loyal friends.

The acceptance of Bulgaria into the United Nations is undisputedly a mark of recognition of its peaceful role, the improvement in its international stature, and its internal stability and growth. Membership in the UN has granted Bulgaria the opportunity to participate more directly and actively in peaceful efforts to strengthen peace and to expand cooperation among

nations.

In its policy towards its neighbors, as well as towards all other countries, the Bulgarian government begins from the principle that is the underlying basis of the Warsaw Treaty: there are no contentious, unresolved issues that cannot be resolved through negotiations, goodwill, and mutual concessions.

This policy has already produced positive results. Our country's relations with Yugoslavia serve as an example. There is no doubt that the historic ties between the peoples of Yugoslavia and Bulgaria and their common interests have contributed to comprehensive mutual cooperation in strengthening peace in the Balkans and in Europe.

The People's Republic of Bulgaria has also made progress in the normalization of its relations with Greece. As for the Bulgarian government, it has a desire to further develop and improve relations between the two countries. We are deeply convinced that an improvement in our relations with Greece is in the interest of both our countries, as well as all the people in the Balkans.

There has also been some improvement in relations between Bulgaria and Turkey. The Bulgarian government sincerely aspires to develop them further in the interest of peace. The Bulgarian government views the constant expansion of diplomatic, economic, and cultural ties with the Western countries, as well as the countries of Asia and Africa, as an important task in its foreign policy.

The government of the People's Republic of Bulgaria firmly believes that – in collaboration with the Soviet Union, the People's Republic of China, the countries of peoples' democracy, and all peaceful people – further progress will be made in the cause of peace and international security.

At the same time, the Bulgarian government believes that the ongoing tension in international relations requires regular and consistent implementation of the Warsaw decisions. To ensure peace, given the international situation, it is also necessary to implement all new measures that will be approved at this meeting of the Political Consultative Committee.

*[Translation by Julia La Villa Nossova]*