

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

PKK/DOK/I/9
27 January 1956

STATEMENT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS
OF THE ROMANIAN PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC
Comrade CHIVU STOICA
27 January 1956

Dear Comrades!

The government of the Romanian People's Republic deems particularly important the current session of the Political Consultative Committee, formed in accordance with the provisions of the Warsaw Treaty, for the consideration of various issues and implementation of joint actions that are a logical continuation of the Treaty under current international conditions. Having signed the Warsaw Treaty – which is an expression of the will of our people to ensure their national security and to preserve peace in the face of the threat that has emerged as a result of the formation of the Western European Union, the remilitarization of West Germany and its involvement in the North Atlantic bloc – our countries have multiplied their efforts aimed at the implementation of measures for collective security and the consolidation of peace in the entire world. The unbreakable ties of friendship, comprehensive cooperation, and mutual assistance between our fraternal countries have grown even stronger.

The well-known actions of global significance taken by the Soviet Union, along with the contributions of the People's Republic of China, other countries of peoples' democracy, India, and other peace-loving nations, have played a decisive role in defending the policy of peace and peaceful coexistence.

In close cooperation with the countries of the socialist camp and in keeping with the vital interests of all nations,, the Romanian People's Republic has steadfastly conducted an active policy of defending peace and further relaxing international relations, a policy aimed at resolving issues of collective security, disarmament, and the prohibition of atomic and hydrogen weapons. The Romanian People's Republic welcomed with special satisfaction the joint Belgrade Declaration of the governments of the Soviet Union and the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. We view it as an especially important factor in strengthening democracy and socialism. Friendly, cooperative relations have been restored and are developing between Yugoslavia and Romania.
[Handwritten comment: Greece and Turkey?]

Political, economic, and cultural relations between the Romanian People's Republic and India, Egypt, Syria, and the other countries of the Middle and Near East are developing and growing stronger.

The Romanian People's Republic feels great sympathy towards the selfless and courageous liberation movements of Asian and African countries fighting against colonial oppression, dependence, and foreign intervention in their internal affairs.

The Romanian People's Republic has supported in practice the policy of lessening international tension. Our country has reduced its armed forces by 40,000 soldiers and officers. The length of military service has also been decreased.

The Romanian government has displayed initiative in resuming relations with Greece. It has made specific proposals to the Greek government that are aimed at the restoration of diplomatic relations and an exchange of embassies, along with a discussion of old, unresolved issues. This would unequivocally benefit both countries and would contribute to the development of economic, political and cultural ties between them. On several occasions, we have expressed our desire to improve and develop our relations with Turkey; there is not a single contentious issue that has arisen in relations between our countries.

We support the development of economic, political, and cultural ties with the United States, England, Latin America and the other countries of the West. We believe that such ties are quite feasible on the basis of equality, non-intervention in internal affairs, and mutual benefit. Relations between Romania and France, as well as between Romania and Italy, may evolve fruitfully in the future in accordance with the interests of our nations, which have traditionally always had friendly ties.

The Romanian People's Republic will continue to strive to develop diplomatic and economic relations, cultural ties, and an exchange of scientists, cultural workers, and parliamentary delegations with all countries that are willing to have them on a basis of equality and mutual benefit.

The Romanian people welcomed the decision permitting the Romanian People's Republic to receive its deserved seat as a peaceful country in the United Nations, where it will continue to contribute to all international activities aimed at strengthening cooperation among nations, preserving peace, and ensuring international security. There is no doubt that restoration of the legitimate rights of the 600 million people of the People's Republic of China in the United Nations would significantly increase the prestige of the organization.

The Big Four Summit Meeting in Geneva demonstrated the possibility of resolving controversial issues peacefully, through negotiations, on the basis of mutual understanding, and by taking into account the peaceful aspirations of nations.

Certain aggressive circles in the Western countries are not willing to draw the relevant conclusions from the events of recent years, which attest to a significant growth in the forces that are fully determined to defend peace. They are trying to maintain tensions and a military

psychosis and are violating the spirit of Geneva by continuing the arms race, which brings incredible profits to large arms manufacturers. They are also trying to intimidate the peaceloving countries in order to impose upon them exorbitant military expenditures and thus prevent the consolidation of peace, prosperity, and growth for the masses of people in these countries. The Romanian People's Republic considers the establishment of a collective security system in Europe as particularly important for ensuring its security.

There can be no doubt that a system of collective security in which both the German Democratic Republic and the German Federal Republic could participate would create favorable conditions for the unification of Germany.

The friendly ties and fruitful cooperation of the German Democratic Republic with peace-loving countries, the development of its international economic and cultural ties, and its consistent policy of peace bear testimony to the great contribution of the German Democratic Republic – as an independent and sovereign country – to the cause of peace and international cooperation.

Comrades!

Our countries are strong. They have healthy economies that are constantly growing and cultures that are flowering. They are building a new working-class society. They do not adopt aggressive goals; we consider aggressive wars to be a national calamity and an obstacle to the progress of mankind.

A termination of the arms race would serve as a positive factor in the elimination of distrust between states and the economic development of mankind. Significant resources could be devoted to the construction of civil infrastructure, a flowering of culture, and progress and enhancement of living standards.

We insist on the implementation of the following five principles in relations between countries: mutual respect of territorial integrity and sovereignty; nonaggression; nonintervention in the internal affairs of states; equality and mutual benefit; and peaceful coexistence. A growing number of states embrace this policy. An ever-increasing number of public figures of various convictions and broad circles of people in all countries support this policy as the only possible and reasonable one.

We are convinced that controversial international issues can be settled through negotiation and that conditions exist for the establishment of stable and lasting peaceful relations between nations.

However, one cannot overlook the fact that certain aggressive circles are doing everything possible to continue the dangerous policy of inflaming the cold war, along with the policy from a "position of strength".

Contrary to the vital interests of mankind, the aggressive circles are intensifying their policy in different parts of the world through various military groupings, such as the North Atlantic bloc and the Western European Union in Europe and the Southeast Asia Treaty Organization. They are creating new military blocs, such as, for example, the Baghdad Pact, while they try to secure their dominance over the Near and Middle East, suppress the movements of these nations for national liberation and independence, and threaten the countries of the socialist camp from these bases.

All of this has compelled our people and all peace-loving nations to strengthen their vigilance, which constitutes the most important prerequisite in rebuffing the aggressive circles and disrupting their plans for war.

Under these international circumstances, the close cooperation of our countries within the framework of the Warsaw Treaty, the measures of coordinated political and economic cooperation adopted by our countries in accordance with the Warsaw Treaty, and military cooperation as well have assumed major importance for the defenders of peace. It is also a prerequisite for the creative, peaceful labor of the people of our countries.

It goes without saying that all our countries' joint efforts for the preservation of peace provide strong support for the forces of peace throughout the entire world.

As a member-country of the Warsaw Treaty, the Romanian People's Republic will do everything necessary to carry out all the tasks related to the protection of our common cause – the great cause of peace and international security.

[Translation by Julia La Villa Nossova]