

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

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28 January 1956

STATEMENT OF COMRADE V. M. MOLOTOV
AT THE SESSION OF THE POLITICAL CONSULTATIVE
COMMITTEE IN PRAGUE
28 January 1956

Dear Comrade Chairman, Comrades and Delegates,

The Treaty on Friendship, Cooperation, and Mutual Assistance concluded by our countries in Warsaw in May of last year provides for the Treaty members' holding consultations on all important international issues relating to their common interests. To this end, and also in order to review some other issues and activities arising from the Treaty's enforcement, we have convened the current meeting of the Political Consultative Committee.

All of our countries - the Warsaw Treaty member-states, who are driven by the interests of peace and security - have worked very hard in order to improve the international situation and to consolidate trust among nations, despite resistance from the aggressive, imperialist forces and their policy of hammering together military blocs.

The People's Republic of China is playing a major role in lessening international tension.

Its international reputation continues to grow. The fact that the great Chinese people have firmly embarked upon a path of socialist transformation has played a decisive role. Other peace-loving countries, especially such a great Asian country as India, have made a significant contribution to the development of peaceful cooperation.

The Big Four Summit Meeting in Geneva confirmed that cooperation among countries with various social systems is possible if it is based upon a consideration of mutual interests and if it leads to a strengthening of peace. "The Spirit of Geneva" has found broad support among masses of peoples in all countries.

Comrades, it is necessary, however, to be aware that the successes of the forces for peace and a certain lessening of international tension should not undermine our vigilance. The threat of a new war is still alive. One should not forget about the opportunistic aspirations of aggressive imperialist circles, whose fears of lessening international tension and cooperation among countries have grown stronger.

It is a well-known fact that already at the end of 1954, the Council of the North Atlantic

bloc spoke in favor of arming NATO troops with atomic weapons and increasing NATO's Western European air forces by one third, as well as expediting the remilitarization of West Germany. It is worthy of note that certain circles in the United States of America are especially eager to remilitarize West Germany.

The dangers created by the aggressive military blocs and the resurrection of German militarism prompt us to consider the issue of joint activities under the Warsaw Treaty to broadly coordinate efforts to increase Warsaw Treaty member-states' defensive capabilities in support of international peace and security.

While planning these activities, we still think that the creation of a collective security system in Europe, based on the involvement of all European countries, regardless of differences in their social and governmental systems, remains the best means of ensuring the security of the countries of Europe.

By rejecting Soviet proposals on European security, the ruling circles of the Western powers are striving to incorporate not only West Germany but also East Germany in their military groupings. Obviously, such plans are doomed to failure because they have nothing to do with either European security or the reunification of Germany as a peace-loving and democratic state. The restoration of German unity cannot be accomplished without an agreement between both German states. The proposal by the government of the GDR to create an All-German Council corresponds to this goal and is fully supported by the Soviet Union.

Together with the democratic forces of all the German people, the German Democratic Republic represents a bulwark of peace, democracy, and progress in Germany. Its consolidation and protection from potential aggression are in the interest of the German people, as well as the interests of all peace-loving nations of Europe. Naturally, due to the creation of the West German armed forces and West Germany's incorporation into aggressive blocs, the German Democratic Republic has been taking new steps to protect its security. This is exactly why the GDR recently approved a decision to create the National People's Army. We unanimously recognize the need for such a decision.

The Soviet Union, like all countries that aspire to support and strengthen peace, is waging a relentless struggle to limit armament and prohibit atomic weapons. We consistently defend the Leninist principle of peaceful coexistence between countries. People know that our governments are not going to lead them down the path of destruction or recklessly subject their countries to the danger of war. We see our task in promoting the consolidation of peace and a relaxation of tensions and in seeing to the creation of collective security for the peoples of Europe and the entire world.

The peoples of our countries, aware of their own capabilities, have been inspired by their great victories in establishing socialism and are not going to succumb to intimidation. Relying upon the insurmountable urge of all nations for peace, along with their growing unified power and

solidarity, the people of our countries are confidently implementing their peaceful, constructive policy.

The Sixth Five-Year Plan of the Soviet Union is vivid proof of this. It is a testimony to the unprecedented growth of material and spiritual forces in the Soviet nations. The national economic plans of other countries, whose people are involved in the creation of new social orders, also confirm this. The implementation of such plans will undoubtedly become a powerful factor in the struggle for securing peace in the entire world.

Additionally, the peoples of our countries understand that maintaining an appropriate capability of self-defense capability and a readiness to meet the challenge and counter any attempts by the aggressive forces to disrupt their peaceful labor is the most important and most efficient insurance for maintaining and securing peace.

Uniting our efforts in the struggle for peace and the development of international cooperation will contribute to a further consolidation of the forces of peace in the entire world.

At the same time, this will facilitate the creation of the most favorable conditions for the implementation of our peaceful economic and cultural development plans, which are bringing happiness and prosperity to our people and increasing the security of all nations.

[Translation by Julia La Villa Nossova]