

Top Secret

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Report to the Politburo of the HSWP

Memorandum by the Hungarian Foreign Minister on the Romanian Proposal to Convene the  
Political Consultative Committee

Comrade Nicolae Ceaușescu, the First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Romanian Communist Party addressed a letter, dated January 31, 1968, to Comrade János Kádár, the First Secretary of the Central Committee of the HSWP. In the letter he proposed that the Political Consultative Committee of the Warsaw Treaty convene in February to discuss the draft treaty to curb nuclear proliferation.

The draft treaty, which was a long time in the making, is being discussed by the Eighteen-Nation Disarmament Committee of the UN in Geneva at the recommendation of the Soviet and the American delegations.

Comrade Ceaușescu notes that the Romanian side has “remarks” and “proposals for correction” regarding the draft agreement. The Romanians think that it is absolutely necessary for representatives of the Warsaw Treaty member-states to meet so that they can examine and discuss the draft agreement, along with its anticipated consequences for the unanimous action of the socialist states, and so that they can secure adherence to the agreement from the largest possible number of states.

We are not a party to the eighteen-nation disarmament talks in Geneva. Nevertheless, we are familiar with the original Soviet draft as well as the version coordinated with the U.S. We agree with the draft treaty, we think that it is acceptable, that it should be signed, and from this perspective, we do not consider it necessary to convene the Political Consultative Committee of the Warsaw Treaty to discuss this issue.

Nevertheless, we don't think that it would be expedient to reject the Romanian comrades' proposal because it would make it harder to convene the Political Consultative Committee of the Warsaw Pact on other occasions.

If the meeting is convened right now, we propose that in addition to consulting on this question, we should discuss other issues as well. Thus, for example, we could table the following: a report by the Supreme Commander of the Unified Armed Forces on the military situation in Europe and the status of the Warsaw Treaty's armed forces; and our experiences with the effects of the Bucharest Declaration (July 8, 1966) and its implementation.

We consider it necessary to consult with the Soviet comrades about the potential meeting of the Warsaw Treaty's Political Consultative committee and the questions to be discussed. As far as we know, on February 6, the Central Committee of the Czechoslovak Communist Party will also

deal with the Romanian comrades' proposal and wants to consult with Poland, Bulgaria and us concerning their reply.

#### Draft Resolution

With the reservations and proposals in the report, the Politburo agrees to the convocation of the Warsaw Treaty's Political Consultative Committee.

The Politburo charges the Foreign Ministry with consulting the Soviet comrades regarding this question, and we should reply on Comrade Kádár's behalf to Comrade Ceaușescu's letter on the basis of this consultation.

Budapest, February 5, 1968  
János Péter

*[Translation by László Borhi]*