

CIRCULAR LETTER

of March 19, 1969

Comrade Chief of [Diplomatic] Mission,

In connection with the proceedings of the conference of the Political Consultative Committee of the states participating in the Warsaw Treaty, which took place at Budapest on March 17, besides the documents published in the press, the Romanian diplomats will take into account, in their discussions with foreign interlocutors, the following directives and explanations:

1. As regards the time when the conference took place, we mention that it has no special significance since the meetings of the Political Consultative Committee of the Warsaw Treaty are routine; the previous conference took place at Sofia in March last year.

2. The agenda of the conference included issues of the European situation and also some aspects related to the strengthening of the defense capability of the member-countries and their military cooperation.

In the event of the interlocutors exhibiting an interest, the answer should be - without any ambiguity whatsoever - that, apart from the issues mentioned in the final documents, no other issues were considered. The issue of the Chinese People's Republic was not discussed, nor did any exchange of opinions about it take place.

3. In connection with the Appeal to all European states, its positive, forward-looking character should be underscored. The Appeal reaffirms some of the provisions and measures comprised in the 1966 Bucharest Declaration of the states participating in the Warsaw Treaty, among which also the proposal regarding the convening of an European conference for the consideration of the issues of security and peaceful collaboration on the continent. It is important to emphasize the idea of a solemn appeal addressed by the states participating in the conference of all of the European countries, [urging them] "to strengthen the climate of trust, abstaining on that score from any actions which could poison the atmosphere in the relationships between the states".

For your information only, we are letting you know that the Romanian delegation proposed the inclusion in the Appeal of express provisions concerned with the use of force or threatening with force, pressures, and demonstrations of force, as well as military maneuvers in the territory or on the borders of other states. These provisions and measures were not approved, however, by the other participants, and in the end we settled for the formulation mentioned above.

4. As regards the military documents adopted [at the conference], it will be pointed out that they are in accordance with the principles constantly promoted and defended by our country. It will be emphasized that the precise written formulation of the framework of cooperation in this field is a positive fact, instrumental in avoiding any misunderstandings or possible unilateral interpretations of the Treaty. In point of fact, measures were adopted regarding the further improvement of the Warsaw Treaty defensive organization's structure, on the basis of the proposals made by the member-states, including our country.

A stand shall be taken on any interpretation that might suggest that our country, by the military commitments it assumed, would have renounced its position of principle in the field of military

cooperation within the framework of the Warsaw Treaty or that [such commitments] could adversely affect our independence and state sovereignty.

5. We are letting you know, for your information only, that the long draft communiqué drawn up by the organizers of the conference, which reflected a number of mistaken interpretations of the main international issues and impressed a rigid orientation, contrary to the requirements of constructive actions of détente and cooperation in Europe, was eventually abandoned. This result was obtained in the long run thanks to the persevering efforts of the Romanian delegation, to its solid argumentation in favor of a constructive approach to the issues of European security and cooperation.

6. In discussions with the diplomats of the countries participating in the Warsaw Treaty, the appreciation shall be expressed that the adopted measures will contribute towards the continuous development of the relationships between our countries, on the basis of the Marxist-Leninist principles, sovereignty and independence, non-interference in internal affairs, equality, mutual advantage, and comradely mutual assistance.

7. We ask you to take steps for making all the Romanian diplomats, military attachés, and workers of the economic representations, fully and thoroughly conversant with the issues constituting the object of this briefing/information.

(Translated by Viorel Nicolae Buta)