

**Statement by the Delegation of the German Democratic Republic at the meeting of
the Political Consultative Committee of the Warsaw Treaty States on the Report of
the Supreme Commander of the Unified Armed Forces and on the submitted
documents on 17 March 1969 in Budapest**

The delegation of the German Democratic Republic approves the report of the Supreme Commander of the Unified Armed Forces of the Member-States of the Warsaw Treaty, Comrade Marshal Yakubovskii.

The changes in the political and strategic military situation in recent years have clearly confirmed that implementing the practical measures required to further increase the functionality and improve the command structure of the Warsaw Treaty's military organization, which has been the joint goal of the Member-States of the Warsaw Treaty for quite some time, is necessary and well-advised.

We base our assessment on the fact that the collective defense alliance of the Warsaw Treaty states is essential for ensuring European security. The political existence of each individual socialist state, its economic and military power as well as its national and constitutional legal status, is decisively determined today by its membership in the socialist commonwealth.

The solidarity and unity of the socialist commonwealth, in particular the strong alliance with the Soviet Union, enables each of the socialist states to fully maintain its sovereignty, territorial integrity and equality of rights in the face of imperialism's constant threat of aggression.

In the view of the party and state leadership of the German Democratic Republic, there exists an objective necessity for the unification of all political, military and economic efforts of our states and peoples. Accordingly, there is a need for unified planning, organization, preparation and coordination of all defensive measures, in particular in the command of the armed forces.

We are convinced that the documents we have before us go a long way towards taking account of these fundamental necessities in the military sphere of the Warsaw Treaty.

The implementation of the documents we have before us concerning the central command organs of the military organization of the Warsaw Treaty, in particular:

- the establishment of the Committee of the Ministers of Defense;
- the expansion of the duties and rights of the Supreme Commander of the Unified Armed Forces and of the staff of the Unified Armed Forces as the command organ of the Supreme Commander and working organ of the Committee of the Ministers of Defense;
- the establishment of the Military Council as a military committee with consultative and advisory functions to the Supreme Commander;
- the deployment of Deputy Supreme Commanders from each Warsaw Treaty member-state;
- the further development of the unified system of air defense of the Warsaw Treaty member-states; and
- the establishment of the Committee on Technology under the leadership of the Deputy of the Supreme Commander for Armament

can substantially contribute to successfully solving fundamental problems related to strengthening the defensive capabilities of the member-states and raising the combat readiness of the Unified Armed Forces.

We welcome the fact the documents lying before us have been elaborated in a process of comradely cooperation and objective exchange of views of the party and state leaderships of the countries of the Warsaw Treaty.

The Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany and the Government of the German Democratic Republic declare their approval of these documents.

We hope that their implementation will further strengthen the military cooperation of our states and effectively increase the combat readiness of our armed forces. In this regard, the role of the Supreme Commander of the Unified Armed Forces and the corresponding organs in the practical implementation of the fundamental principles should be further strengthened.

We particularly thank the party and state leadership of the USSR, the General Secretary of the CC of the CPSU, Comrade Brezhnev, the Chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, Comrade Kosygin, the Defense Minister of the USSR, Marshal of the Soviet Union Gretshko, and the Supreme Commander of the Unified Armed Forces of the Member-States of the Warsaw Treaty, Comrade Marshal of the Soviet Union Yakubovskii, for their active support and extensive work in the preparation of these important documents.

[Translation from the German by Ursula Froese]

