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General Staff of the Czechoslovak  
People's Army

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Speech of Cde. Dr. Gustáv HUSÁK, General Secretary of the CC of the CPC,  
Regarding Issues Related to the Warsaw Treaty's Military Organs

Dear Comrades,

The Czechoslovak delegation has listened very attentively to the speech of the Supreme Commander of the Unified Armed Forces, Marshal of the Soviet Union I. I. Iakubovskii, which has assessed the results achieved by the military organs of the Warsaw Treaty Defense Organization.

We fully approve the practical activities that the military organs of our defense organization have taken to implement the resolution adopted at the Budapest meeting of the Political Consultative Committee.

It was the initiative of the CC of the CPSU that as early as 1965 gave impetus to the establishment of the Warsaw Treaty's military organs and their increased preparedness. The decision adopted by the Warsaw Treaty member-states in 1969 to establish new military organs has had a positive effect on all the Unified Armed Forces' activities and operations. Throughout their existence, the new organs have worked hard and creatively. Combat readiness has improved in every respect, and the Unified Armed Forces' system of command has improved as well. The military cooperation among our countries has expanded. The camaraderie-in-arms of our fraternal armies has deepened further. All the measures and activities have contributed to the further improvement of our defensive capabilities.

The military organs' new structure has increased the responsibility of each member-state for the alliance's collective defense. At the same time, we have resolved one of the most difficult military issues facing the Warsaw Treaty – namely, a coordinated and unified approach to the advance preparation of the Forces Development Plan for 1971-1975, contained in bilateral agreements. Czechoslovakia signed its protocol on June 20, 1970. This document has helped us achieve a higher level of efficiency and efficacy in our spending for the ongoing improvement of our defensive capabilities.

We can gladly conclude that the establishment of the new military organs has strengthened the Warsaw Treaty's unity. The further strengthening of our unity through the readiness and capabilities of the Warsaw Treaty Defense Organization marks a contribution to the worldwide expansion of socialism's ideals and to the defense of the achievements of the entire alliance. Beyond the military aspect, the political significance of the Warsaw Treaty, a major stabilizing factor and guarantor of peace in Europe, is also growing.

The shifting correlation of forces between the two systems in favor of socialism, along with the growing rivalry between individual centers of the imperialist bloc and the progress of the anti-imperialist movements in developing countries, have allowed the socialist countries, led by the Soviet Union, to launch a major initiative for peace. This initiative was reflected in the conclusions of the 24<sup>th</sup> Congress of the CPSU, which our foreign policy has also been following.

Even the major imperialist powers cannot help but take this initiative into account. Of course, it is not because they love peace, but because they have been forced to accept international realities. The essential goals of imperialism remain the same; there has merely been a change in tactics in their struggle against socialism, which manifests itself in various ways, from reviving nationalism to supporting deviationist tendencies in order to weaken and undermine the unity of socialist states. To this end, they frequently formulate and implement new forms of ideological diversion.

We must say that although the USA has continued direct military intervention in other parts of the world, the situation in Europe has improved somewhat. In the wake of the treaties between the USSR and the FRG and between the PRP and the FRG, along with the framework agreement of the four powers on West Berlin, better conditions now exist for the GDR's international recognition. This situation has also arisen as a result of our joint efforts to hold a conference on European security and cooperation.

On the other hand, we can see increasingly active, USA-backed forces in Western Europe that are not interested in détente, but insist on dealing with the socialist countries from a position of strength. The main prerequisite for such an approach, they believe, is the further development of their military potential. This tendency was on prominent display last December at the latest meeting of the NATO Council, which decided to increase the budget for upgrading NATO's armaments by \$1 billion. The European members of this aggressive alliance will be the principal contributors to the increase. This shows that the imperialists, despite their disputes, are united in their common struggle against the socialist system.

NATO still envisages in its policy the direct use of military power in the European theater. The capabilities of the armed forces of the United States and the European NATO members for waging all types of war – from conventional to limited nuclear to global nuclear – continue to improve.

However, we must see that the most important factor in reducing the chance that the imperialists will unleash any sort of conflict is the strategic nuclear might of the USSR, along with the combat readiness of the Warsaw Treaty's armies and, not least, the presence of Soviet troops in Central Europe. All this makes the imperialists' chances of success in any conflict unrealistic and thus guarantees the undisturbed development of socialism in our countries.

Thus, our common future task must be the further improvement of our defensive capabilities and the purposeful and comprehensive deepening of our cooperation. An ongoing exchange of military experience represents one way that we can achieve the goals that our parties, governments, and peoples have set for us.

We must closely unite the socialist camp and its Unified Armed Forces against the imperialist threat. It is our unity that will help us prevail in our common struggle against imperialism. This unity, we believe, must not only be demonstrated in words, but also implemented in daily practice.

The path to achieving this goal, we believe, lies in the unswerving implementation of Leninist principles in the development and expansion of the armed forces, joint combat training and operational exercises, and continual improvement of the overall combat readiness of our forces. The major joint exercises of the Unified Armed Forces in all potential theaters and battlefields should approximate real conditions and modern methods of combat operations as closely as possible. Beyond the military tasks, we believe that such actions and measures within the framework of the Unified Armed Forces also serve to further deepen the spirit of internationalism in relations between our peoples and to strengthen our armies' friendship and camaraderie-in-arms.

The geographical location of the ČSSR, as well as its limited military capabilities and human resources, make our political, military and economic integration within the Warsaw Treaty vital to us. We are fully aware of the necessity and tremendous importance of the Warsaw Treaty. The 14<sup>th</sup> Congress of the CPČ stressed in a resolution that our country's defense and the socialist achievements of our people can be reliably

guaranteed only within the framework of the Warsaw Treaty, in full compliance with interests of all its members and in our unbreakable friendship with the Soviet Union.

The situation and role of the ČSPA<sup>1</sup> within the Warsaw Treaty are significantly affected by our immediate vicinity to the Federal Republic of Germany, the most aggressive member of NATO, whose military policies and military training are still based upon revanchist demands to revise the outcome of World War II. This requires that we maintain a high combat readiness and preparedness so that our armed forces can repel and crush any imperialist aggression.

The expansion and future development of the ČSPA demands the ongoing attention of the supreme party and state organs. We must deal constantly with issues related to the ČSPA, including reviews of its development and training plans. To continue improving its combat capabilities, it is in our best interests to equip the ČSPA with modern and highly effective systems.

To achieve this goal, we intend to further strengthen the Communist Party's leading role in our army and improve the army's morale and class consciousness, especially in its command. We have adopted many human-resource and procurement measures. All peacetime, full-strength and mobilized motorized rifle and tank divisions have been equipped with modern combat vehicles (T-55, T-54A and T-54 tanks, tracked OT-62 APCs,<sup>2</sup> wheeled OT-64 APCs). Only one of the mobilized divisions is still equipped with T-34 tanks and will continue to remain so during the current Five-Year Plan. According to our armament plan, several divisions will be equipped with BMP infantry fighting vehicles by 1975. Frontal aviation and national air defense units have received modern Soviet aircraft (MiG-21 and Su-7b) and, like all other Warsaw Treaty members, the DVINA and Volkhov SAM systems. The only fighter-bomber air division still equipped with MiG-15s will be re-equipped with modern aircraft during the current Five-Year Plan. At the same time, we will increase the number of NEVA SAM<sup>3</sup> systems and substantially improve the air defense capabilities of our army units. We will continue to improve the field training of troops and operational training of the commanders and staffs. In doing so, we want to lean on and draw upon the experience of the renowned Soviet Army and the fraternal armies of the other Warsaw Treaty states.

We must stress especially in this regard the decisive role of the Soviet Union and its armed forces as the mightiest socialist power, capable of resisting and destroying any

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<sup>1</sup> Transl. Note: Czechoslovak People's Army (ČSPA).

<sup>2</sup> Transl. Note: Armored Personnel Carriers (APCs).

<sup>3</sup> Transl. Note: Surface-to-Air Missiles (SAMs).

aggressor. The Soviet Union possesses all types of state-of-the-art combat equipment and extensive combat experience. Moreover, it has gained extensive experience from its postwar struggle against imperialism in many serious clashes and crises all over the world. Its huge nuclear potential – which the Soviet Union alone possesses among the Warsaw Treaty countries -- is capable of holding the imperialists at bay and preventing them from launching any warlike adventures.

It is only due to the Warsaw Treaty with the USSR at the fore that socialism can develop in peace. We will be able to successfully fight against imperialism in every field of social life only if the socialist countries are united.

The Soviet Union's crucial role is highlighted as well by its unselfish, comprehensive assistance to the various countries and their armed forces. Our party and state leadership greatly appreciates the comprehensive and effective assistance that has been provided to our army in order to restore its combat capabilities, streamline its organizational structure, and improve its equipment. Thanks to this assistance, the ČSPA has once again become a strong link in the Unified Armed Forces of the Warsaw Treaty member-states. The ongoing exchange of experience with the staffs and troops of the Central Group of Forces and the presence of representatives of the Supreme Commander of the Unified Armed Forces inside the ČSPA have also played a major role in this regard.

Dear Comrades, please allow me to conclude by expressing my heartfelt thanks to the Supreme Commander of the Unified Armed Forces, Comrade Ivan Ignat'evich Iakubovskii, the ministers of defense of the member-states, and all the other officials in the military organs of the Warsaw Treaty for their efforts to improve the socialist camp's defenses. We wish them all many successes in improving the combat-readiness and cooperation of the Warsaw Treaty's armed forces.

*[Translation by Jiří Mareš]*