

Report on the Regular Meeting of the
Political Consultative Committee of the Warsaw Treaty Member-States on
4 and 5 January 1983 in Prague

1. The meeting proceeded according to the following agenda:
 1. Main directions in the current fight to eliminate the danger of a nuclear war, to maintain and strengthen international détente, security, and the development of cooperation in Europe.
 2. Report of the Supreme Commander on the Unified Armed Forces of the Warsaw Treaty Member-States and on measures for further increasing their combat readiness.
2. The meeting adopted the following documents:
 - a) The Political Declaration of the Warsaw Treaty Member-States (ND¹ of 7 January 1983), which contains an analysis of the current international situation and further tasks to be undertaken in the fight for arms limitation and disarmament. Particular importance is accorded to the proposal by the Warsaw Treaty Member-States to the member countries of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization regarding the conclusion of a treaty on refraining from the use of military force and maintaining friendly relations;
 - b) An internal resolution regarding the Report of the Supreme Commander of the Unified Armed Forces of the Warsaw Treaty Member-States on guaranteeing the defensive preparedness of the alliance under the current complicated international conditions;
 - c) A resolution confirming V.G. Kulikov, Marshal of the Soviet Union, as Supreme Commander of the Unified Armed Forces for a further regular term of office;
 - d) The communiqué from the meeting, with the decision to hold the next regular meeting of the Political Consultative Committee in Sofia and to

¹ Transl. Note: *Neues Deutschland*, the East German communist party newspaper.

discuss ideas for further advancing the new initiative for a treaty between NATO and the Warsaw Treaty at the next meeting of the Committee of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs in Prague;

- e) A note stating that the next meeting of the Committee of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs should also discuss the suggestions made at the Prague meeting of the Political Consultative Committee regarding questions of disarmament and the working mechanism of the Warsaw Treaty.
3. The Prague meeting of the Political Consultative Committee aimed at achieving the broadest possible coalition of all forces favoring peace and opposed to war, in order to repel the most aggressive imperialist forces, in particular the United States. The speech by the Secretary General of the CC of the CPSU, Iurii Vladimirovich Andropov, set the tone for this. Coming at the onset of the year 1983, the decisive year in the fight against the NATO missile decision, the Political Declaration shows all realistically thinking forces interested in peace a path to the peaceful alternative that socialism is providing to nuclear disaster.

The meeting resulted in an agreement on how the socialist states' constructive and balanced peace policy could be continued and the policy of the enemy thwarted, given the present complicated international situation and the rising threat to world peace posed by imperialism's confrontational course and arms buildup. At the same time, the fraternal countries reached agreement on their assessment of the main directions of international developments and the causes behind the deterioration of the current situation.

The presentations by the highest representatives of the USSR, the GDR, the PRP and the ČSSR sought to give fresh impetus to the peace policy of the states of the socialist commonwealth and to achieve a reversal in the current dangerous international trends through the broadest possible activation of all peace-loving forces. It was unanimously confirmed that the fraternal states' global political strategy corresponds, now as before, to what is required, but that new initiatives must take into account current realities.

Although the meeting was burdened by the class-indifferent, destructive and extortionist attitude of the SRR, its main objective was achieved by visibly demonstrating the common positions of the fraternal countries on the most important international issues and by determining priorities for immediate steps and longer-term work to implement these positions. It is particularly significant

that the member-states reached agreement on a proposal to the member countries of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization for a treaty on refraining from the use of military force and maintaining peaceful relations. This far-reaching international political initiative is likely to decisively influence international discussions on war and peace in the 1980s in a way that is favorable to the socialist states and to give fresh impetus to the international peace movement. The foreign policy elaborated at the Prague meeting aims above all else to do everything possible, on the basis of a realistic and sober assessment of the situation, to prevent or at least to postpone the stationing of new U.S. intermediate-range nuclear missiles in Western Europe and to force the United States to negotiate seriously. The USSR, the GDR and the ČSSR pointed out that if new American intermediate-range nuclear weapons are stationed in Western Europe, countermeasures by the socialist states will be unavoidable.

4. The meeting of the Political Consultative Committee, which on the whole took place in an objective and constructive atmosphere, aimed to further develop the comradely cooperation of the fraternal socialist countries in the interest of unifying all forces to guarantee the external conditions for socialist development and to find a common solution to the problems facing the fraternal countries. These tasks – as stated by Comrade Andropov – should be addressed with a realistic sense regarding what is possible and with the understanding that every fraternal country settles its internal problems independently and is bringing its own foreign policy views to bear more strongly.

Clearly visible was the striving of all member-states (except the SRR) to carry out more effective and strategic political cooperation within the framework of the Warsaw Treaty, especially in terms of foreign policy coordination and political mechanisms, and to exploit the possibilities offered by collective consultations for a more effective foreign policy. Comrades Andropov, Honecker and Husák submitted concrete and complementary proposals for intensifying the work of the Political Consultative Committee.

With regard to the Comecon summit meeting now in preparation, the representatives of the fraternal countries emphasized that elaborating a strategy for economic policy is of crucial significance for strengthening cooperation and integration.

The fraternal countries – with the exception of the SRR – underlined the importance of the Warsaw Treaty and its further existence for the security of

socialism and the maintenance of peace. They reconfirmed their commitment to fully implement their tasks for strengthening its defense.

It became clear that the states of the Warsaw Treaty are according greater importance to the development of their relations with other socialist countries. In keeping with the jointly-agreed policy line, all of the fraternal countries are taking steps to normalize relations with the PR of China.

5. The speech by General Secretary of the CPSU Iurii Vladimirovich Andropov, which opened the meeting and set its direction, clearly outlined the problems and tasks facing the Warsaw Treaty in the present acute situation. It provided the necessary food for thought to define future work (the correlation of forces; the political, economic and military strengthening of the Warsaw Treaty; activation of the socialist world-system as a whole – above all China, SFRY, DPRK; tactics toward the non-aligned states as well as the industrialized capitalist states; and the peace movement).
6. The speech by the head of the GDR delegation was received with great interest. Comrade Andropov voiced his thanks for the significant contribution that this speech made to the meeting of the Political Consultative Committee. He particularly stressed its clear assessment of the international situation and its explanation of the situation in the FRG, of relations with the FRG and the proposals submitted for cooperation with the socialist states and for coordinated action by the same. The speech elicited similar reactions from the Hungarian, Polish, Czechoslovak and Bulgarian sides. The GDR's concrete proposals for coordinating relations with developing countries also met with broad approval.
7. The statements and interventions of the SRR demonstrated the well-known, class-indifferent assessment of the basic contradiction of our era (that between the poor and the rich countries) and of the causes for the deterioration in the international situation. Additionally, positions could be detected that deviated more sharply than before from those of the others, particularly with regard to the fundamental issues of international class struggle, especially with respect to halting the arms race and disarmament. Romania tried to soften the criticism voiced in the declaration regarding the current policy of the imperialist states, especially the United States; to diminish their responsibility for the increasing danger of war, and to reduce the points of reference for the peace movement. Although the SRR now supports the new initiative for a treaty on refraining from military force and

maintaining friendly relations between the states of the Warsaw Treaty and NATO, it sees this primarily as a means to its own end, the “dissolution of the blocs.”

The SRR has been particularly intransigent in its insistence that the socialist states should take unilateral steps toward the reduction of military arsenals, arms limitation, and disarmament. These proposals are based on the one hand on internal economic grounds and on the other hand on the basic political attitude of the Romanian leadership toward the Warsaw Treaty. The SRR is even demanding a say in issues of disarmament - particularly nuclear disarmament - that are being negotiated bilaterally between the USSR and the United States.

8. It has become clear that the SRR is already trying –with an eye to the formal expiration of the Warsaw Treaty in 1985 – to loosen its ties with the alliance. That is the aim of both the demand that negotiations with NATO about the “dissolution of the blocs” should begin immediately and the initial refusal to confirm a further term of office for the Supreme Commander of the Unified Armed Forces. Under the second agenda item for consultation – the Report of the Supreme Commander of the Unified Armed Forces of the Warsaw Treaty Member-States – an internal resolution “On the State of the Unified Armed Forces of the Warsaw Treaty Member-States and Measures for Further Increasing their Combat Readiness” was adopted after lengthy discussions with the SRR. The resolution seeks to ensure a reliable defense of the Warsaw Treaty Member-States and to increase the combat potential of the troops and fleets of the allied armies by 1985 by equipping them with the most modern types of weapons and technology. It is based on the Principles of the Planning and the Development of the Unified Armed Forces from 1986 to 1990.

The heads of delegation approved the report of the Supreme Commander as well as the prepared draft resolutions.

[Translation from the German by Ursula Froese]