

Second day of consultations: Wednesday, 5 January 1983  
(Start: 10:00)

Chairman Iurii V. Andropov:

Comrades! Let us continue our work. The head of the delegation of the German Democratic Republic, Comrade Erich Honecker, has the floor.

Erich Honecker:

Dear Comrades! First of all, allow me to transmit to all participants in our meeting the fraternal greetings of the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany, of the State Council and the Ministerial Council of the German Democratic Republic.

We are beginning the year 1983 working together. That is a good start, which makes us all the more confident that we will master the considerably more difficult domestic and foreign policy tasks that lie before us. In this regard, I would like to wish success to all our comrades and to convey to them my personal best wishes. To our Czechoslovak comrades, in particular Comrade Gustáv Husák, we express our most heartfelt thanks for the hospitality and excellent working conditions.

It was with great satisfaction that we heard the speech of Comrade Andropov. We thank you, honored Comrade Iurii Andropov, for your comprehensive assessment of the international situation as well as for the conclusions you draw. We are in complete agreement with them. The clear orientation you have provided will be an invaluable help to our countries.

Since our last meeting as the Political Consultative Committee, events have confirmed that the clash between the two class-policy lines in Western politics is becoming considerably more acute. The one side aims to curb the arms race, strengthen peace and defend the sovereign rights and freedoms of the people. The other is bent on undermining détente and steering a course of confrontation and arms buildup, interference in the internal affairs of other states and suppression of their struggle for national liberation.

The forces in favor of socialism and peace are growing. This, clearly, is the dominant tendency of the present time. Imperialism's sphere of influence is shrinking and its systemic crisis, its contradictions and inner difficulties, are becoming more acute. Never

before have the political, economic and defense potentialities of socialism and the influence of its politics of peace been as powerful as they are today.

We were absolutely justified in honoring the enormous achievements of the Soviet Union, this bulwark of peace, freedom, and social progress, during the celebrations of the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. No country has made a weightier contribution to the changes that have taken place in our century. Especially given the present international situation, aggravated by aggressive imperialist circles, in particular the USA, the power and strength of the Soviet Union, the socialist community of states, are crucial in the fight for a peaceful and happy future for mankind. The Soviet Union's constructive peace proposals and untiring initiatives to remedy the world situation are meeting with approbation among the peoples of the world, and their influence is extending all the way up to the leading bodies of social democratic parties, to the governing circles of the capitalist states.

The fact that the imperialists have lost their strategic military advantage is having a profound impact on the worldwide confrontation about war and peace and its resolution in the interest of the peoples. It is first and foremost thanks to this that a new world war could be prevented up until now. The states of our commonwealth are now in a position to carry out two tasks of strategic importance at once: to stimulate all aspects of their national economies and to fully tap the driving forces of socialism and ensure the external conditions necessary for this. This process, which, of course, is not without its complications, has far-reaching implications for world developments and the global correlation of forces. Real existing socialism is an abiding source of power, feeding the hopes of mankind for a world free of inequality and new wars. On the occasion of the New Year, for example, the chairman of the national association of a Livorno group of which I am a member wrote to me in the name of all politically persecuted persons and resistance fighters of Italy: "Nineteen eighty-three will be an even more difficult year and world peace will be even more seriously threatened. We have every reason for concern. But the thought of the existence of the world of real socialism, the most powerful bastion of resistance against imperialism and the builder of peace, immediately fills us with new hope and confidence, for we are deeply convinced that the socialist states fully and rightly represent the interests and the peaceful future of the international workers' movement."

The fight against the confrontational imperialist course steered by the USA has allied itself with the struggle for national and social liberation. More and more, it is being taken up by the states of Asia, Africa and Latin America, despite all their differences.

The insight that there is no reasonable alternative to peaceful coexistence has, we can safely say, won considerable ground internationally. The largest peace movement of the postwar period has become a force to be reckoned with – above all, in the imperialist centers of the FRG, the USA and Japan – and is obliging the aggressive circles to change tack. At the same time, the people's protest against nuclear weapons in the capitalist countries is merging with their fight against the radical dismantling of the social welfare system. In addition, there is widespread fear that the arms buildup is undermining the existential foundations of capitalist society.

Our draft political declaration refers rightly to the increasing danger of a new world war. As the recently concluded series of NATO meetings shows, aggressive imperialist forces, particularly the USA, are intensifying their efforts to compensate for the losses of position and defeats they suffered in the 1970s by making frontal attacks on the forces of social progress. Thus they hope to find a way out of the crisis of their system, the effects of which even surpass those of the 1930s. We have entered a new, more acute phase in the confrontation between socialism and imperialism.

Basically, this is also what events in the People's Republic of Poland since August 1980 have been about. Our enemies have made no secret of this. We, as the friends and immediate neighbors of the Polish People's Republic, west of its border along the Oder and the Neisse, would like to use this forum to congratulate our Polish comrades, particularly Comrade Wojciech Jaruzelski, for having single-handedly, invoking the people's right to self-determination, taken the measures of 13 December 1981 that thwarted the efforts of all those who sought to break the People's Republic of Poland away from its brothers in the family of the Warsaw Treaty. The success of these measures, which were applied most circumspectly and responsibly, has furthered the cause of peace and socialism.

In the military sphere, the imperialists have been trying to shift the focus of the arms race to qualitatively new, more advanced weapons types and means of mass destruction; their goal is to regain strategic military superiority over socialism. Connected with this are plans to conduct a nuclear war of long duration, with Europe serving as the U.S. administration's war battlefield of choice. At the same time, progress is being stalled in all disarmament talks, whether in Geneva, Vienna or at the UN. Any agreements on the basis of equality and equal security are being blocked.

Under these aggravated conditions, more threats to peace and to the positions of progressive forces are arising from the centers of conflict and tension in different regions of the world. Israel's bloody, aggression against the PLO, against Lebanon, backed by

the USA, is a particularly drastic case in point. It would certainly be wrong to overestimate the achievements of imperialism in the Middle East. Still, they point clearly to the fact that the USA's efforts to destabilize the region and to improve its position are increasing, just as they are in southern Africa, the Caribbean, and Central America.

The American foreign ministry's conference for the so-called democratization of the communist countries, held in mid-October of last year under the leadership of Foreign Minister Shultz, showed that all the major areas of politics, economy and ideology are being incorporated into the "crusade against socialism" announced by Reagan. The promotion of counterrevolutionary forces is being conducted just as systematically as the economic war through embargoes, boycotts, refusal of credit and licenses, through the open violation of binding treaties and agreements, and the refusal or withdrawal of most-favored-nation status. At the same time, however, the USA is encountering considerable difficulties in its attempts to force upon the other imperialist major powers a joint strategy of waging economic war on socialism. As we all know, the sabotage of the natural gas pipeline deal with the USSR ended in a serious defeat for Reagan.

In fact, NATO is expanding its sphere of action to regions that are of great significance for the global political, economic and strategic interests of imperialism. The deployment of American taskforce divisions and the expansion of military bases are being accelerated. Actions in southern Africa, in Angola as well as in Ethiopia, Nicaragua and El Salvador, reflect above all the radical shift in the strategy and policies of the USA the United States toward the developing countries in the direction of open intervention. The goal – also declared by official representatives of the Federal Republic of Germany – is to "change those conditions of world politics that are decisive for the future of the global balance of power in Asia, Africa and Latin America."

All of this testifies to the firm intention of the Reagan administration to continue with its politics of confrontation, supported by the most aggressive circles in the other imperialist states, and its willingness to assume a high level of risk. While imperialism has thus succeeded in strengthening reactionary forces here and there in the world, it has not been able to and cannot attain its main goal, which is to tilt the overall global correlation of forces to its advantage. This does not exclude the possibility that with a further aggravation of the capitalist world's economic crisis the unpredictability and foolhardiness of the USA's foreign policy, and therefore the threats to world peace, will grow even more.

We have seen more than once that the USA's striving for political and economic supremacy has been generating growing opposition, also among its allies – political and

military class solidarity notwithstanding. This is becoming evident above all in conflicts regarding economic interests. Responsible circles both in the USA and in Western Europe obviously consider these differences to be the most serious, enduring test that NATO has undergone since its establishment. Foreign Minister Shultz's trip to Western Europe and the December meeting of NATO's Foreign Ministers were evidence of the considerable efforts being made to settle differences and to pursue a unified economic and trade strategy with respect to the socialist countries.

The majority of the European NATO states and Japan do not want to renounce their mutually beneficial relations with the socialist countries. Our experience shows that they are still interested in certain forms of cooperation. They are becoming increasingly aware of the extent to which the USA's efforts to expand its political, financial and military supremacy in the imperialist system is restricting their own sphere of action. The consequences of the U.S. strategy of nuclear war in Europe are also a cause of growing concern, not only among the public but also in governing circles. In this regard, the existing contradictions are becoming more acute and new conflicts are arising, both within the imperialist states and between them.

Dear Comrades!

The fact that the most aggressive circles of imperialism are further aggravating the international situation is unmistakable. Yet, at the same time, forces are gaining strength that are effectively resisting this fatal course and are capable of thwarting it. First and foremost among them is real existing socialism. We consider it our most important task to further strengthen the same, to reinforce our fraternal ties with the USSR, to consolidate the unity and solidarity of our states, their cooperation and their coordinated international action. The GDR will continue to contribute actively to this endeavor. Our parties have a precise understanding of how to build up the developed socialist society. We see this as a historical process of radical political, economic, social, and mental transformations. The challenges arising from this are particularly demanding in the 1980s. We are prepared to participate actively in the further elaboration of questions that arise with regard to building and perfecting the developed socialist society.

Economic policy is particularly important for influencing the revolutionary process in the world. In our country, the policy elaborated at the 10<sup>th</sup> Party Congress of the SED for dynamically developing the economy with an even stronger orientation towards the socialist world market is proving successful. The tasks to be fulfilled in this regard in the near future were recently set by our Central Committee. Our guiding principle is that a timely solution of the socialist community's developmental problems will be crucial to

ensuring and improving the political, economic, and social stability of socialism. This will also increase its international attractiveness.

In order to improve our cooperation, we consider it extremely important that essential political and economic matters be coordinated by the General Secretaries and First Secretaries of the Central Committees of our parties. This primarily concerns matters of long-term and strategic importance for strengthening the political and economic foundations of socialist society and ensuring the maintenance of its defensive capabilities at the necessary level. The upcoming meeting of the General Secretaries and the First Secretaries of the fraternal parties for a collective discussion of problems of economic policy and cooperation will, we are convinced, be a significant step forward towards enhancing socialist economic integration. The GDR is preparing carefully for this meeting, and is ready to contribute to the achievement of constructive results.

The Central Committee of our party has received from the Central Committee of the CPSU the draft decisions and declaration for the Comecon summit meeting. We agree with the proposal to conduct this meeting at the level of the Secretaries of the Central Committees on 8 and 9 February 1983 in Moscow.

We agree with the Soviet comrades that the fundamental economic strategy for the coming 10 to 15 years must be developed jointly, and we base our cooperation on this strategy. The complicated problems connected with making the transition in our economies to expanded, intensive production can only be solved jointly. Only in this way will it be possible to overcome the economic and technological dependence on the West in certain areas and to achieve a long-term leading position for socialism with respect to labor productivity. As already mentioned, we regard the overcoming of these problems to be the key political factor determining the development of our community in the 1980s.

The all-round cooperation of our countries and the exchange of experience among the fraternal parties are proving most useful in many different areas. We are in favor of intensifying these in all their present forms, particularly among the responsible secretaries of the Central Committees at the bilateral and multilateral levels.

We consider it necessary that our political cooperation in the Warsaw Treaty be highly operational. Active use should be made of the existing arrangements to ensure regular substantial coordination as well as concrete operational cooperation. We are in favor of expanding coordination to include a wider range of matters.



The policies and alliances of the major imperialist countries should be such a matter of coordination, as should long-term measures to thwart the USA's plans to politically undermine the socialist countries. We should also agree on a common position regarding international centers of conflict and for collaboration with the states of Africa, Asia and Latin America and the movement of non-aligned states.

I would like to suggest that we decide in the near future, within the framework of the Committee of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, upon a coordinated plan to ward off the imperialist attacks against progressive developments in southern Africa. The exchange of views and information on the Middle East that took place in Moscow has, in our opinion, paid off.

Under current international conditions, it is particularly important that the Warsaw Treaty states cooperate closely on military matters to ensure socialism's high capabilities for collective defense. We will continue to do everything we can to ensure the maintenance of the German Democratic Republic's national defense at the necessary level and to fulfill our commitment to the collective defense of socialism.

The German Democratic Republic has been paying special attention to its relations with socialist states that do not belong to the Warsaw Treaty or the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance. We aim to continuously develop these relations for the sake of strengthening socialism and ensuring peace. Relations between the German Democratic Republic and Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia have been raised to a new level with the signing of friendship and cooperation treaties. In this sense, we also deem useful our meeting with leading representatives of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in the GDR. In order to strengthen relations with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, we have been working towards the conclusion of a friendship and cooperation treaty.

The German Democratic Republic is also taking steps to develop its relations with the People's Republic of China based on our agreed line. This is part of our joint effort to discourage the People's Republic of China from cooperating with imperialism, to normalize our official relations with China and thereby to promote the socialist development of this country. We regard this as a long-term project. The best measure of China's true readiness to move in this direction is, in our view, its desire and corresponding action to normalize its relations with the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. If the People's Republic of China does not normalize its relations with the Soviet Union, it cannot count on the same between the German Democratic Republic and China.

Dear Comrades!

The year 1983 will be Karl Marx Year in the German Democratic Republic. The Central Committee of the GDR approved at its last meeting a corresponding proposal and has publicized it. We anticipate that all work in industry, agriculture and all other areas of social life will serve to honor this greatest son of the German people on the occasion of his 165<sup>th</sup> birthday and the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his death by widely propagating the ideas of Marx, Engels, and Lenin in our political and ideological work and by proving the vitality of Marxism-Leninism to the utmost through our ongoing construction of the developed socialist society and in our struggle to ensure peace.

In the week of 11-16 April 1983, an international conference will take place in Berlin on the topic "Karl Marx and Our Times: The Struggle for Peace and Social Progress." We have invited communist and workers' parties, other revolutionary parties and national liberation movements, socialist and social democratic parties. The Socialist Unity Party of Germany thus hopes to make a contribution to the joint efforts of all revolutionary and progressive forces in the present international class conflict.

Dear Comrades!

Resolutely defending peace and showing a feasible, realistic way of ensuring it is in the fundamental long-term interests of socialism. The declaration we have before us reflects our readiness to cooperate with all forces that desire to avert a nuclear disaster. As a platform for diplomatic and mass political struggle, it is very well suited for activating the forces of peace already at work and for mobilizing new ones. We approve of this declaration. It contains constructive proposals that set priorities for immediate steps and long-term work. In the name of the German Democratic Republic, I declare that, side by side with the Soviet Union and the other fraternal countries, we will do everything we can to fill them with life.

The new initiative for a treaty on the non-use of military force and the maintenance of peaceful relations between the Warsaw Treaty and NATO is of great importance for averting the danger of a nuclear war. In our opinion, the Committee of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs should, at an appropriate time, be tasked with preparing a corresponding draft treaty.

We consider our main task in 1983 to consist in doing all we can to prevent, or at least to delay, the deployment of new American intermediate-range nuclear weapons in Western



Europe, and to force the USA to negotiate in earnest. The German Democratic Republic fully supports the proposals of the Soviet Union for the reduction of strategic and intermediate-range nuclear weapons in Europe. We highly esteem the initiative of Comrade Iurii Andropov at the celebrations of the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. The Soviet proposals show resolute determination and at the same time the highest degree of flexibility. They send a clear message to the NATO states that they have nothing to gain from trying to tip the European and global balance of power in their favor, but are rather ultimately putting at risk what has become possible in the European process of détente. With these proposals, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics has proved that it makes no demands to possess in Europe even one more nuclear delivery vehicle than NATO – whether a missile or an airplane. As before, it remains prepared to reduce intermediate-range and tactical nuclear weapons to zero.

The Soviet Union's easily comprehensible, open, and refreshing approach to solving the most important problem of our time has found a resounding echo in the world and is apt to pave the way for positive results in the negotiations between East and West that will soon take place. In this regard, we attach great importance to Comrade Andrei Gromyko's imminent visit to the Federal Republic of Germany and the German Democratic Republic.

The European allies of the USA are engaged in an extremely contradictory and protracted "learning process," which we have been promoting with all our strength. We are referring on the one hand to the opportunity the Soviet proposals offer for drastically reducing the danger of a nuclear war. On the other hand, we are not leaving any doubt about our determination to do our part to prevent NATO from deriving any military advantages from the deployment of new U.S. intermediate-range weapons, and to do so through joint counter-measures of the Warsaw Treaty states. We have been activating our diplomatic and foreign intelligence work, above all with respect to the countries where they are deployed.

In our opinion, it is very important for us to reconfirm our joint support for the Soviet Union's renunciation of a first nuclear strike and its proposals to freeze armaments, above all nuclear armaments. The decisive influence that these steps by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics is having on discussions regarding international disarmament is already becoming evident, above all in the peace movement in the Western states. We are supporting and encouraging this movement via numerous contacts on the political and social levels and through a convincing presentation of the socialist peace proposals.

Although we recognize the upsurge of the peace movement, it is impossible to oversee that it is not yet strong enough. The leading forces of imperialism are bent on paralyzing the activities of this movement, on demagogically influencing it, on splitting it and turning it against socialism's policies of peace and security. This is also the purpose of the event planned by splinter groups for May of this year in West Berlin, with the leading participation of the "Russell Committee." We are in favor of countering these intentions by clearly endorsing the opposition of all pro-peace forces to NATO's missile policy.

The proposal to begin negotiations on freeing Europe from chemical weapons as well, which has now been submitted by our states, is, in our opinion, an effective way to counteract U.S. plans to flood Western Europe with these highly dangerous weapons. We support a declaration by the German Democratic Republic, the Polish People's Republic, and the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic that they are part of a chemical-weapons free zone, provided that the FRG, Belgium, the Netherlands, and Luxembourg are also ready to do the same. By taking such an initiative, we can use our many contacts in both the European NATO states and the neutral countries.

Political dialogue, expanding treaty relations, and mutually beneficial cooperation –all play an important part in our promotion of a stable and dynamic peaceful coexistence between states with different social systems and in resisting attacks by the aggressive circles of imperialism. This goal motivates the GDR's participation in the work of the United Nations, in a great variety of international organizations, agencies and conferences, and above all else, in bilateral relations with the states of the non-socialist world. Despite noticeable practical progress in our bilateral relations, most capitalist states are currently showing little initiative.

We agree with the assessment of the policies of the major imperialist countries provided by Comrade Iurii Andropov. We consider it all the more necessary to continue our efforts with perseverance and to exploit the differences that come to light between the approaches of the USA, the European capitalist states, and Japan. We are doing all we can to maintain and strengthen the positions anchored in the European treaty system and the Helsinki Final Act.

The course of the Madrid meeting has been reflecting this struggle. Our states' steadfast defense of the European treaties and the Helsinki Final Act has prevented the USA from realizing its intention of terminating the meeting without any positive results. This achievement has encouraged the neutral and non-aligned states to work more actively for the continuation of the CSCE process and for a successful outcome in Madrid. The approach of the Western European NATO states at Madrid remains contradictory.

Although they have an interest in achieving a reduction in tensions for their own benefit, they are largely subordinating their positions to those of the USA. But it is very clear that they do not want to assume responsibility for a failure of the Madrid meeting. The socialist states' declaration that a conference on confidence- and security-building measures and disarmament in Europe is in the interest of all European states has thus been quite important. It is out of the question for us to pay with political concessions, as the American foreign minister recently demanded in Madrid. The security of all is at stake. It would be good if we could consult and agree again on the position of the socialist states before the meeting resumes.

For the situation in Europe and the world, it is of no small importance whether the political climate along the line separating the two major social systems and their military alliances is quiet, characterized by peaceful cooperation in a spirit of equality, or rife with tensions and potential for dangerous conflict. That is why, even after the change of government in Bonn, our approach to relations with the FRG still remains determined by our desire for normal inter-state cooperation based on the principles of peaceful coexistence.

The verbal pledge by Kohl and his ministers to fulfill existing treaty commitments and to continue *Ostpolitik* shows that even a government led by the CDU/CSU cannot ignore the realities of the international correlation of forces. Influential circles in the FRG's monopoly bourgeoisie are obviously not interested at this time in radically altering the government's foreign policy. Of course, it is difficult to predict how things will proceed after the *Bundestag* elections, which, as we know, are planned for March 6. The results of the elections in Hamburg are remarkable, but do yet allow us to conclude that the new U.S. missiles will not be deployed in 1983. This would in any case have to take place against the will of the majority of the citizens of the FRG; that much is already clear. According to an opinion poll published in the FRG several days ago, 58 per cent of the citizens of the Federal Republic are against the deployment of "Pershing II" and cruise missiles if the Americans do not negotiate in earnest. According to this opinion poll, 54% of people voting for the CDU and 70% of FDP supporters recommend postponing the deployment if the superpowers have not reached an agreement by autumn. Among SPD sympathizers, the figure is 65%. Only 24% of citizens believe that the deployment will make the peace more secure.

The first actions of the Kohl government indicate that the change in government not only marks a break in the domestic development of the Federal Republic of Germany, but will also leave a mark on foreign policy. Significantly, Kohl has declared "the Atlantic alliance" to be "central to the Federal Republic's *raison d'état*." As his Washington visit

has shown, the FRG is following the U.S. administration's course more closely. In connection with NATO's missile agreement in Brussels, it is unequivocally following the USA's deceitful "zero solution." It has been interfering more and more in the internal affairs of the socialist states under the banner of "guarantees for human rights and self-determination."

Another result of the clear shift to the right in Bonn has been the attempt to deny the binding nature under international law of the treaties with the GDR and the other socialist countries and to subject them to revanchist interpretations. I am referring to such ideas contradictory to the treaties as the validity of the 1937 borders of the German Reich, the existence of two states in Germany, the claim to speak in the name of all Germans, and other illusory and dangerous propositions that are being elevated to state doctrine by the FRG government.

We consider it very important not to relieve the FRG's new government of its duties under the package of European treaties. This was the point of my recent meeting with Federal President Karl Carstens. When I met him in Moscow, I once again made it clear that what matters more than anything else is ensuring peace in Europe. We have made it clear that normal, good neighborly relations between the two German states cannot flourish in the shadow of new American nuclear weapons.

Without a doubt, our relations with the states of Asia, Africa, and Latin America are growing more important for the defense and development of détente. In recent years, the German Democratic Republic has substantially expanded its political and economic relations with these states, particularly with the states following a socialist path of development or with an orientation toward socialism. We will continue to pursue intensely our proven policy of developing personal contacts and exchanging views with leading personalities as well as with people at all levels of government and society. In addition to an above-average level of economic exchange, we will concentrate on sharing experiences, knowledge, and skills in social development.

As was confirmed during my visits in Mexico, Syria, Kuwait, and Cyprus, there is a great demand for information about the socialist states' positions on the world situation and discussion about fundamental questions of international development. Valuable starting points for expanding our political cooperation with the non-aligned states have been provided by our commonwealth's peace proposals and the connections between them and these states' and peoples' struggle to solve their own particular political and socioeconomic problems. This has been proven by their support for such initiatives as the Soviet Union's renunciation of the first use of nuclear weapons and the proposal that the

Warsaw Treaty and NATO declare their readiness not to expand their activities into Africa, Asia, and Latin America. I would also like to mention the initiatives to create peace zones and nuclear-weapon-free zones. Finally, our campaign against the deployment of new U.S. nuclear missiles in Western Europe, which obviously present a threat the Middle East and Northern Africa as well, deserve mention.

It should be noted that the peoples in these regions increasingly perceive imperialism's confrontational course as a danger to their life and their very survival. Significantly, the results of the Arab summit meeting in Fez were almost identical to the Soviet Union's programmatic initiative of 15 September 1982. We agree with Comrade Iurii Andropov's proposals regarding how to encourage the Arab states to engage in joint actions. In our opinion, an international conference on the Middle East, as proposed by the Soviet Union, is the only viable path to a just peace in the Middle East.

We are following very attentively the weakening of formerly more or less resolutely anti-imperialist positions of several non-aligned states. This has been caused both by changes in the domestic political correlation of forces and by imperialist pressure. It would be expedient for our foreign ministers to agree on how we might help maintain and strengthen the anti-imperialist positions of the non-aligned countries. It would be good if they would meet after the seventh summit of the heads of state or government of the non-aligned states this March in New Delhi, so they can reach the necessary agreements on continuing our policy toward the non-aligned states.

Dear Comrades! The German Democratic Republic welcomes the announcement in the communiqué of the next meeting of the Political Consultative Committee in Sofia. This underlines our efforts to guarantee continuity in the work of the organs of the Warsaw Treaty.

In conclusion, I would like to propose that the Prague Declaration not only be circulated as an official document of the United Nations and transmitted to the governments of all participating states in the European Security Conference, but also delivered to the Coordinating Committee of the Non-Aligned States, as well as to the office of the Socialist International.

Thank you for your attention.

*[Translation from the German by Ursula Froese]*