

Summary
of the Speech by the Supreme Commander of the Unified Armed Forces, Marshal of
the Soviet Union V.G. Kulikov, at the Consultative Session of the Political
Consultative Committee of the Warsaw Treaty Member-States

“On the State of the Unified Armed Forces and
Measures for Further Increasing their Combat Readiness”

The first part of the speech emphasizes that a constructive and realistic program of action aimed at reducing international tensions and eliminating the danger of war has been proposed in the Prague Political Declaration of the Warsaw Treaty Member-States of 5 January 1983, in the Joint Declaration by the leading party and state officials of the seven socialist countries issued in Moscow on 28 June 1983, and in the Declaration and Statement of the Comecon Member-Countries (1984).

The military aspects of the evolving situation have been examined, and it is noted that the United States and its NATO allies have been proceeding with the stationing of new American intermediate-range nuclear weapons in several Western European NATO countries and are driving the arms race forward.

A particularly dangerous area of US military activity is outer space. The official military doctrine of the United States continues to be based on the possibility of dealing a first strike in a nuclear war and achieving victory in such a war.

Other NATO states have been increasingly being into realizing the foolhardy plans of the U.S. administration.

In the European theater of war, a large group of NATO armed forces has already been deployed. The main part (more than 60%) of the forces of this aggressive pact are stationed in Central Europe, in the immediate vicinity of the borders of the Warsaw Treaty states, in a high state of combat readiness. The main thrust of the bloc is provided by troops of the FRG, the USA and Great Britain.

The Federal Republic of Germany has been actively supporting the aggressive policy of the American administration, has lifted the last restrictions on the production of long-range offensive weapons, and is the country on whose territory all the "Pershing II" missiles, a significant portion of the American cruise missiles, as well as conventional and chemical weapons, are or will be stationed. Revanchist forces, working openly for a revision of the postwar borders, are active in the FRG.

The fighting capacity of the armed forces of France and Great Britain has been increasing. The NATO flanks in Europe are being reinforced.

NATO's intensification of its militaristic preparations for war has been accompanied by a significant increase in the intensity of the training of its troops and officers. Large-scale exercises of the armed forces of the imperialist powers near the borders of the Warsaw Treaty states are becoming a substantial factor in the aggravation of tensions in Europe.

The second part of the speech contains an analysis of the work done by the Ministries of Defense of the allied countries and by the Unified Command in fulfillment of the resolutions of the Political Consultative Committee on military questions, in particular

the Prague Consultative Session (1983), which have determined the main directions of the development of the Unified Armed Forces for the next five-year plan (1986-1990).

The speech further notes that the Committee of the Ministers of Defense has been taking the necessary measures to further increase the combat readiness of the Unified Armed Forces and has been pursuing a unified policy in the area of military technology.

Thanks to the constant attention by the party and state leaderships of the allied countries, the Unified Command and the national army leaderships have been working actively together with the Standing Commission of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance for the Defense Industry on the production of new types of weapons, military technology, and munitions.

Scientific research and development is being carried out in accordance with agreed plans.

The general formations and groups have, for the most part, been organized into one unified structure. They have been largely equipped with uniform missile, armor, artillery, and other military technology with sufficiently high-level tactical and technical combat properties. This has significantly increased the general formations' and army units' capabilities for firing, thrust and maneuver.

The national air defense units have been equipped for the most part with modern anti-aircraft missile systems, fighter aircraft and radar capabilities. Short-, medium- and long-range anti-aircraft missile systems are being introduced, and the automation of their control at the operational level is being completed.

The air forces are being equipped with aircraft and helicopters with highly effective means of destruction.

In the navies, the successful modernization of a number of ships has increased their combat capabilities in fighting anti-ship missiles and enemy aircraft, locating submarines, and clearing mines.

In addition to the technical equipment of the forces, much attention is being paid to the mastery of new methods of command for combat operations and the command of troops and fleets under conditions of the deployment of precision weapons by the enemy within the framework of strategic operations in the theater of war.

In carrying out the tasks set by the communist and workers' parties for strengthening the defensive capabilities of the countries of the socialist commonwealth of states, the members of the allied armies have shown a great sense of responsibility, internationalist solidarity and a constant readiness to defend the achievements of socialism.

This is confirmed by the high morale and combat standards that the members of the army have displayed in exercises and expeditions, both within the duty system and in combat service.

The Unified Command hereby reports to the Political Consultative Committee, that the allied troops and fleets comprising the Unified Armed Forces meet the requirements of the Central Committees of the Communist and Workers' Parties in terms of their organizational structure, their equipment with weapons and combat technology, material supplies, and the recruitment and training of staff.

The troops and fleets are combat-ready and capable of carrying out complex tasks in joint operations in the theaters of war using different means of armed combat.

Several difficulties and unresolved problems were presented in the speech:

- the rate at which our probable enemy is modernizing armaments is several degrees higher than in our armies;
- their remains in the troops and fleets of the allied armies a considerable amount of technology and armaments of the first generation, which does not fully meet modern requirements;
- the need for further improvement in the Unified Armed Forces' current system for mobilization from a state of peace to a state of war;
- the slow pace in the establishment of command posts;
- the creation and modernization of information routes and centers of the state telecommunication networks in the interest of the armed forces is not being given the required attention and;
- deficiencies in the development of precision arms systems, of the network of airports and roads, of pipelines and naval bases.

Attention was drawn to the necessity of more purposefully equipping the troops and fleets with new armaments and combat technology within the determined time periods.

The third part of the speech presents the most important measures for further increasing the combat readiness of the Unified Armed Forces on the basis of the resolution of the 1983 Prague consultative session of the Political Consultative Committee.

It is emphasized that the most important measure will be the complete fulfillment of the agreements concerning the development of the allied armies in the current five-year-plan and of the agreements on the additional equipment of the formations and groups with the latest armaments and combat technology.

Furthermore, it is noted that the Unified Command has prepared proposals for the development of each army for the next five-year-period (1986-1990) on the basis of the 1983 resolution of the Political Consultative Committee and has transmitted these to the Defense Ministries of the allied countries.

In 1986-1990, the technological equipment of the troops and fleets will entail the introduction of the newest and most modern fighting equipment, as well as combat systems of the newest generation. In order for this task to be carried out, it will be necessary for the national commands to increase the extent and rate of their re-equipment of troops and fleets with the newest types of armaments and fighting technology.

In the national armed forces, the main focus will be on increasing the thrust, firepower, and the maneuverability of formations and groups.

To this end, the transition to an improved organizational structure of the motorized rifle and Guard tank divisions continues, as recommended by the Unified Command.

The number of reserve formations and groups is being increased. The creation of airborne- wings and squadrons is being planned:

- for armies in battalion strength,

- for the front in brigade strength.

The following are being continued:

- the equipment of the general formations with high-precision tactical missiles;
- the re-equipment of most of the tank divisions with the T-72 tank;
- the introduction of infantry fighting vehicles;
- the formation of F1a-missile regiments with modern anti-missile systems.

In the air defense units of the allied countries, the main efforts will be directed at further perfecting the unified system of air defense of the Warsaw Treaty Member-States, at increasing the fighting potential of the present and future means of airborne attack, and at creating air defense commands for air defense in the theaters of war in peacetime.

It is planned to equip the air defense units with armaments and combat technology that will increase their potential for destroying cruise missiles and aircraft of various classes at various altitudes under conditions of active radio-electronic jamming.

In the air forces, it is planned to increase the combat potential, above all of the attack aircraft, by replacing the aircraft fleet as well as by creating a certain number of bomber, fighter-bomber and ground-attack aircraft squadrons.

The number of attack aircraft in the air forces of the allied countries is to be increased to the maximum.

It is also planned to develop army aircraft, especially the helicopter attack divisions and units.

The development of the naval fleets will concentrate on increasing the combat potentialities of torpedo boats and anti-submarine ships, by renewing and restocking the existing fleet, naval aviation, and the coastal defense troops.

In the formations and units will be introduced:

- new submarines
- missile boats
- landing and anti-submarine ships
- minesweepers with hulls of low-level magnetic steel and effective mine defense weapons
- modern coastal defense missile systems

In the allied armies and fleets, measures are planned to improve technological and rear supply services.

Work is continuing on stockpiling material supplies to meet the established norms and on improving loading and unloading and other technology of the rear services.

The reconstruction of existing airports and the construction of new ones are planned, along with preparatory work to expand the stationing of anti-aircraft equipment, to reinforce all transport types, and to develop an all-purpose stationary pipeline network.

Particular attention is being paid to increasing the combat readiness of the command centers.

In operational and combat training, particular attention will, as before, be paid to joint operational and tactical exercises of the troops and the fleets of the armies of the Warsaw Treaty countries. These will be characterized by longer duration, a unified plan and a maximum simulation of the real conditions at the beginning and in the course of a war.

For the next five-year period, a widening of the range of joint research and development projects as well as a better utilization of the defense industry of all allied countries producing armaments and combat technology is foreseen.

Guided by the resolutions of the communist and workers' parties, effective ways are being sought to improve the psychological and moral preparation and military education of the members of the army in the spirit of

- Marxism-Leninism
- socialist patriotism and internationalism,
- hatred of imperialism,
- a high degree of political vigilance and unlimited devotion to the cause of socialism and communism.

To this end, we plan to make full use of the preparations for the festivities marking the 40th anniversary of the victory in the Great Patriotic War and the 30th anniversary of the Warsaw Treaty.

The report emphasizes that the realization of the measures foreseen for the next five-year period serves one single purpose – not to permit NATO to attain military superiority over the Warsaw Treaty.

The speech concludes by assuring the Political Consultative Committee and the leaders of the allied fraternal communist and workers' parties that the Unified Command, together with the Ministries of Defense, will do all that is necessary to maintain the Unified Armed Forces in a state that guarantees the security of the countries of our alliance.

[Translation from the German by Ursula Froese]