

Warsaw Pact Appeal to the NATO States and all European Countries Regarding the Reduction of Armed Forces and Conventional Armaments in Europe¹

Being aware of their responsibility to their peoples and humanity for the destiny of peace in Europe and the whole world and guided by the striving to achieve a radical change for the better in the present complex international situation, the Warsaw Treaty member-states hold that decisive action, concrete measures aimed at ending the arms race, embarking on real disarmament, and removing the war menace are now needed more than ever.

They support the Soviet Union's program for the complete elimination of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction everywhere before the end of this century. They are convinced that an end to nuclear testing, implementation of nuclear disarmament, prevention of an arms race in space, the banning and elimination of chemical weapons, and other measures for disarmament would lead to the creation of a safer peace for European peoples, for peoples of the whole world.

The allied states declare for a comprehensive approach to the problem of disarmament, for the elimination of weapons of mass destruction to be backed by a substantial reduction of armed forces and conventional armaments. Along with ridding Europe of nuclear weapons, the problem of the reduction of armed forces and conventional armaments assumes particular acuteness for the present and future of the European Continent where now the biggest groups of armed forces equipped with the latest weapons oppose each other. And some systems of conventional armaments are approaching weapons of mass destruction in their operational characteristics. The allied states declare themselves in favor of concrete measures in the sphere of nuclear disarmament, reduction of armed forces and conventional armaments to be accompanied by corresponding lowering of the military expenditures of states.

Guided by these considerations, the Warsaw Treaty member-states put forward to all other European countries, the United States, and Canada these proposals which are a substantial addition to the program for the elimination of weapons of mass destruction.

At the same time they have an independent character and their implementation would lower considerably the level of war danger in Europe.

I.

The Warsaw Treaty member-states propose a substantial reduction of all components of the land forces and tactical strike aviation of the European states, as well as of corresponding forces and weapon systems of the United States and Canada deployed in Europe. Operational-tactical nuclear arms with a range of up to 1,000 km would be reduced along with conventional armaments.

The entire territory of Europe, from the Atlantic to the Urals, would be the

¹ Source: Foreign Broadcast Information Service, *Daily Report, Soviet Union*, 13 June 1986, USSR International Affairs, pp. BB 8-BB 12. Translation from Moscow *Pravda*, 12 June 1986, First Edition, p. 1.

geographical zone for reductions.

It is suggested to implement the reduction of armed forces and conventional armaments in Europe gradually, according to agreed-upon schedules, and while constantly observing a military balance at lowered levels without the damage to anyone's security. Along with the formations and units reduced, their organic armaments, including nuclear weapons systems, would also be reduced.

A one-time mutual reduction of the numerical strength of the forces of states of the opposing military-political alliances by 100-150,000 troops from each side within 1 or 2 years is proposed as an initial step. The reduction of tactical strike aviation would be of much importance in the framework of this step. Immediately after that, the Warsaw Treaty member-states are prepared to make considerable cutbacks, as a result of which, given the reciprocal readiness of countries of the North Atlantic alliance, the land forces and the tactical strike aviation of both alliances in Europe would be reduced early in the nineties by approximately 25 percent as compared to their present level. This reduction would comprise over half a million people from each side. The armed forces of the opposing groups in Europe would thus be reduced by over a million.

The allied socialist countries declare that the process of reduction of armed forces and armaments of the NATO countries and the Warsaw Treaty countries should continue. Substantial reductions of the armed forces and armaments of both alliances would make it possible to involve other European states in that process.

The components of armed forces being reduced are proposed to be disbanded by equivalent integral military formations, units, and subunits along with their organic armaments and military equipment. Their personnel would be demobilized in accordance with the procedures established in each state.

The armaments and equipment subjected to reduction should be either destroyed or consigned to depots on national territory in accordance with agreed-upon procedures. Nuclear charges would be destroyed. Some types of military equipment on arrangement could be put to use for peaceful purposes.

The funds saved as a result of appropriate reductions of armed forces and conventional armaments must not be channeled into the creation of new types of armaments and other military purposes. They must be used for the needs of economic and social development.

All the states, parties to an agreement on armed forces and armaments reduction -- would assume the commitment to keep from increasing their forces and tactical strike aviation beyond the limits of the cutback area.

II.

It is proposed to work out a procedure for the reduction of armed forces and conventional armaments under which the process of reduction would lead to the lessening of the danger of a sudden attack and would promote the consolidation of military-strategic stability on the European Continent. For this purpose it is suggested to agree at the very start on a considerable reduction of the tactical strike aviation of both military-political alliances in Europe, and also on the lessening of the concentration of troops along the line of contact of these alliances.

Additional measures capable of enhancing the confidence of the Warsaw Treaty countries and the NATO countries, of all European states, that sudden offensive operations will not be launched against them would also be worked out and implemented for this purpose.

Arrangements are envisaged on restrictions on the holding of large military exercises (as regards their number and scope) and on the exchange of more detailed information about them, and about forces and weapon systems drawn into Europe from other areas for the period of exercises. Envisaged also are other measures that would promote the strengthening of mutual confidence.

Confidence-building and creation of more favorable conditions for the reduction of armed forces and armaments in Europe would be promoted by the implementation of such measures as creation of zones free from nuclear and chemical weapons in Europe, gradual reduction of the military activity of the two military alliances, and the establishment of cooperation between their participants on questions of arms limitation and disarmament.

III.

Armed forces and conventional armaments would be reduced under a reliable and effective control with the use of both national technical means and international procedures, including on-site inspections.

Along with measures of verification of the entire process of reduction, it is proposed to establish observation of the military activity of the forces that remain after cutbacks.

Adequate forms of verification of measures for mutual confidence-building, to be implemented in accordance with agreements, would also be used.

To implement control, the sides would exchange, at an agreed-upon moment, data on the total numerical strength of the land forces and tactical strike aviation in the cutback area and, separately, data on that part of them that is to be reduced, and that will remain after the cutbacks, the lists (rosters) of military units that are to be reduced (disbanded), citing their unit designation, numerical strength, deployment, and number of the main agreed-upon types of armaments subject to reduction. There would also be notifications about the beginning and completion of cutbacks.

An international consultative commission with the participation of representatives of the NATO countries and the Warsaw Treaty countries, as well as neutral and nonaligned states concerned, and other European states, would be instituted for purposes of control.

On-site verification of the reduction of armed forces, destruction or storage of armaments could be implemented, when needed, with the involvement of representatives of the international consultative commission. Checkpoints staffed by representatives of the international consultative commission could be set up for such control at large railway junctions, at airfields, in ports.

IV.

The present proposals for the reduction of armed forces and conventional armaments in Europe could become the subject of concrete discussion at the second stage of the Conference on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures and Disarmament in Europe.

At the same time, proceeding from the urgent need to take measures for the lowering of the level of military confrontation in Europe, the Warsaw Treaty member-states hold that the examination of these proposals could be started without delay. They also deem it possible to convene for the purpose of special forum consisting of European states, the United States and Canada.

They are also prepared to widen the scope of the Vienna talks on mutual reduction of armed forces and armaments in central Europe by drawing other European states into them and by changing the mandate of the talks accordingly.

Proclaiming the readiness to use all the possible channels and forums for mutual lowering of the level of military confrontation on a European scale, they at the same time confirm their interest in armaments and armed forces reduction in central Europe and declare again in favor of an effective conclusion of the first stage of the Stockholm conference.

V.

The question of military doctrines is of no little importance for assessing the real intentions of the military-political groups and of separate states. It is necessary to remove mutual suspicion and distrust that have been accumulating for years, to analyze thoroughly each other's concern on that matter, too. In the interest of security in Europe and the whole world, the military concepts and doctrines of the military alliances must be based on defensive principles.

The Warsaw Treaty member-states declare with all responsibility that never, under any circumstances, will they launch hostilities against any state, be it in Europe or in another area of the world, unless they become the target of aggression themselves. The proposals they advance stem from their consistent policy aimed at removing the threat of war, and at creating a stable and secure peace stem from the defensive character of their military doctrine which presupposes the maintenance of the balance of military forces at the lowest possible level, the reduction of military potentials to the limits necessary for defense.

The same peaceful intentions prompt the proposal of the Warsaw Treaty member-states for a simultaneous disbandment of both military alliances.

The NATO member-countries also declare the defensive nature of their alliance. It follows from this that there should be no obstacles to mutual considerable reductions of armed forces and conventional armaments in Europe.

In making this address the Warsaw Treaty member-countries do not set any preliminary conditions whatsoever for the commencement of a concrete discussion of the proposals contained in it. They are also prepared to study in a constructive spirit other proposals on this score that could be made by the NATO member-countries, the neutral and nonaligned, and other European states.

[Signed]

For the People's Republic of Bulgaria

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For the Hungarian People's Republic

János Kádár

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General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union

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General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia,
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Budapest, 11 June 1986