

ASSESSMENT
OF THE [WARSAW TREATY] POLITICAL CONSULTATIVE
COMMITTEE MEETING

HELD OCTOBER 22 - 23, 1985

TODOR ZHIVKOV:

1. We should emphasize the particular importance of this Political Consultative Committee Meeting given the particular international situation under which it was conducted. It took place prior to the meeting between Comrade [Mikhail] Gorbachev and President [Ronald] Reagan. The documents and decisions from the meeting will enable Comrade Gorbachev, during his talks with President Reagan, to convey the common stance of the Warsaw Treaty member states.

This was a very important characteristic of the meeting.

2. All delegations from the Warsaw Treaty member-states demonstrated unity and solidarity. This is of crucial importance at this time.
3. The declaration that was adopted is a broad, active platform to advance our policy on peace and war and to improve the international situation. It is not just a summary of current initiatives in the international arena. This policy proceeds further and deals with such a key issue as the development of an international program for scientific and technological progress.

The specifics of the proposals in the declaration will make it difficult for the Western countries and the bourgeois mass media to present it simply as propaganda. So, they are a little confused now. The scope and the specifics of this platform present a possibility for the further mobilization of anti-militarist forces.

4. An important feature of the declaration is that it addresses the countries of Western Europe to a large extent. This lays the groundwork for enhancing our contacts and relationships with the West European states, on the one hand, and will increase the influence of these countries vis-à-vis the USA, on the other hand.
5. The speeches at the meeting demonstrated both unanimity on the main issues and a striving to analyze the facts of the current international situation. Comrade Gorbachev's speech, as well as other speeches, made a Marxist-Leninist analysis of the current situation in the spirit of the declaration. The speeches outlined the main directions in the struggle to prevent a new world war.

Nicolae Ceausescu's speech was in discord with the other presenters. Having abandoned his class positions, he was playing the role of a great peacekeeper, elaborating on the well-known Romanian theories. He also suggested that the Soviet Union and the other Warsaw Treaty member-states reduce their defense expenditures and troops.

6. The protocol from the meeting, which has not been published, outlined the following issues as topics of analysis at the next meeting of the Political Consultative Committee:
 - Reduction in armament expenditures;
 - Human rights;
 - The New International Economic Order.

It should be mentioned that all of issues discussed in our speech were adopted - some were added to the protocol, while others were quoted by other presenters. Our opinion regarding the developing countries was taken into consideration, and so was the issue of the new economic order.

(Central State Archive, Sofia, Fond I-B, Record 68, File 85-1025)

[Translation by Jordan Baev]