

1299/23 [Stamped: "New Version"]

Position of the Politburo of the CC¹ of the CPC² and the Government of the ČSSR³ on
the Results of the Meeting of the Political Consultative Committee of the Warsaw Treaty
Held in Bucharest, November 25-26, 1976

(Draft)

The Politburo of the CC of the CPC and the Government of the ČSSR discussed the results of the meeting of the Political Consultative Committee of the Warsaw Treaty held in Bucharest on November 25-26, 1976. They both endorsed the actions of the Czechoslovak delegation, as well as the conclusions and documents adopted by the Political Consultative Committee, which they highly praised, and approved steps to implement them.⁴

They concluded that the meeting of the Political Consultative Committee represents an important stage in the consistent⁵ efforts of the socialist countries in the struggle for peace, international security and the development of cooperation, especially on the continent of Europe. They fully support the Declaration, "For New Results in International Détente, for the Consolidation of Security and the Development of Cooperation in Europe," which⁶ lends the socialist commonwealth's full authority to continuing the patient and comprehensive implementation of the Helsinki Conference's Final Act. They stress that even more strenuous efforts will be necessary to make the process of international détente irreversible and to eliminate the existing hotbeds of tension in the world in a way that benefits the nations fighting for freedom, independence, and progress.

The Politburo of the CC of the CPC and the Government of the ČSSR fully agree with the conclusions reached in the declaration -- namely, that today's most urgent task is to halt the feverish arms race and to achieve further progress in the disarmament process. They regard as very important the proposal that the states which signed the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe should conclude a treaty in which they agree not to be the

¹ Transl. note: Central Committee.

² Transl. note: Communist Party of Czechoslovakia.

³ Transl. note: Czechoslovak Socialist Republic.

⁴ Transl. note: An earlier draft did not contain this sentence; it read instead: "They both expressed their complete agreement with the actions of the Czechoslovak delegation, highly praised the documents adopted at the meeting, and adopted steps to implement them."

⁵ Transl. note: The earlier draft read "ongoing and concerted" efforts.

⁶ Transl. note: The earlier draft contained the following passage at this point: "represents a major achievement for the improvement of the international atmosphere and."

first to use nuclear weapons against each other. They voice their hope that this proposal will meet with a positive reaction from the states participating in the Helsinki Conference.⁷

They both expressed their deep conviction that despite the counteroffensive by the forces of militarism, reaction and revanchism, the joint efforts of the states to make Europe a continent of peace and cooperation and the efforts of all countries to consolidate peace throughout the world can and will continue.

As a socialist country, Czechoslovakia is deeply and vitally interested in the peaceful development of our continent and the world as a whole. Thus, the declaration adopted at the meeting will naturally and logically inspire our actions in the international arena as part of the ongoing struggle to consolidate the peace and security of nations.

The Politburo of the CC of the CPC and the Government of the ČSSR also emphasized the importance of the Warsaw Treaty for the consolidation of unity and the continued deepening of the member-states' all-embracing fraternal cooperation. They appreciate its role, both in terms of ensuring the defense and the security of the member-states and in terms of formulating a common, peaceful foreign policy for the socialist community and effectively coordinating its implementation. Consequently, they both welcome the further improvements to the mechanisms for cooperation among the member-states, especially the establishment of the Committee of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and the Joint Secretariat of the Warsaw Treaty.

The Politburo of the CC of the CPC and the Government of the ČSSR stressed with satisfaction that the conclusions of the Bucharest meeting of the Political Consultative Committee were in full compliance with the vital interests of the people of socialist Czechoslovakia and the international goals set by our party and state at the 15th Congress of the CPC. On behalf of the CPC, the Government of the ČSSR and all the Czechoslovak people, they expressed their firm resolve to deepen their all-round cooperation with the Soviet Union, all the countries of the socialist commonwealth, and all progressive and peace-loving forces of the world in order to achieve their realization.⁸

[Translation by Jiří Mareš]

⁷ Transl. note: The earlier draft did not include the previous two sentences; it read instead: "They voice their hope that the extraordinarily important draft Treaty on the Non-First-Use of Nuclear Weapons will be received positively by all the governments that signed the Helsinki Conference's Final Act."

⁸ Transl. note: In the earlier draft, this paragraph read: "The Politburo of the CC of the CPC and the Government of the ČSSR expressed the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic's resolve to continue close cooperation with the Soviet Union and the other Warsaw Treaty member-states in order to realize the conclusions of the Bucharest meeting of the Political Consultative Committee."