

Speech of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the USSR (Shevardnadze) in Warsaw,

19 March 1986

Peace lies at the core of the philosophy of socialism. This is why comrade Gorbachev put forward a proposal on January 15 [1986] for the creation of a nuclear-free world, and an all-embracing international security system. The same idea was put forward in the Political report to the 17th Summit of our party [CPSU].

We believe that this plan can become reality because we are confident that we will keep the military-strategic superiority in any situation. We can also see that this plan creates a new political and psychological atmosphere in the world.

Nevertheless, the West did not announce any plans for the liquidation of their [nuclear] arms.

The American administration has a mystical fear of a first step toward arms reduction.

As for the Europeans, they are cherishing the idea of a "European defense initiative". If realized, these plans can have negative consequences.

Confronting the US pressure, Europe, on the other hand, is looking for a solution by promoting integration. The summit in Vienna can become a milestone in the pan-European process. We should prepare initiatives regarding all issues of the so-called "second basket" of the Final Act. It is also clear that we need to promote our activities concerning human rights and humanitarian cooperation.

During the last year, cooperation within the Warsaw Treaty has approached new boundaries. Joint proposal of a foreign policy program, initiatives of the ČSSR and the GDR toward the creation of a chemical weapons-free zone in the center of Europe, Bulgaria's and Romania's declaration on the creation of such a zone on the Balkans, Polish and Hungarian proposals etc. – these are the testimonials of our collaboration.

[Source: Bulgarian Central State Archives, Sofia, Fond 1b, Opis 35, a.e. 394-86. Summary by Anya Jouravel]