
Information from the Bulgarian Minister of Foreign Affairs (Mladenov) to the Politburo of the CC of the BCP regarding the Bulgarian Position on the Romanian Proposal for the Reduction of Warsaw Treaty Armed Forces, 22 September 1986

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

01-05-10

To: Politburo of CC of BCP

Comrades,

In his statements at Warsaw Pact forums, the RCP Secretary-General and President of Romania, Nicolae Ceaușescu, had several times proposed that Warsaw Pact countries should unilaterally freeze and reduce their force levels and military expenditures.

At the PCC Sofia meeting (1985), the Romanian party laid out this proposal as a term for signing the closing documents. As a result, at the Warsaw meeting (19-20.03.1986) it was decided that the CMFA had to create an Expert Group for examining this possibility.

At the Third Congress of the Working People [trade unions], held in the beginning of September 1986, Ceaușescu called upon all European states to reduce their armaments by at least 5%. The Congress adopted a decision for 5% reduction of Romanian armament, forces and military expenses till the end of the year, following a referendum.

On 11 and 12 September 1986, the allied countries' Working Group held a meeting in Bucharest. The Warsaw Pact delegations succeeded in avoiding the discussion delegated by Romania regarding the above-mentioned reduction. They stated that it was not possible to take unilateral actions because they would harm their security, having in mind the existing fragile equality between NATO and WTO. The Soviet Army General Staff representative proved with facts that USA and NATO military programs aim at military superiority over the Warsaw Pact. The coordinated position for strict keeping of the equality principle as the only possible base for disarmament agreements was confirmed.

As a result of the efforts of the six allied countries, the Romanian proposal was neutralized to a great extent. That's why the Romanian representatives insisted on a second session of the Group before the meeting of CMFA in Bucharest, set for 16 and 17 October 1986.

In this connection I consider it expedient that the Bulgarian experts delegation, which shall participate in the second session of the Working Group, should express the official statement of PR of Bulgaria. At the present it is not in our country's interest to accomplish the proposed one-sided 5% reduction of forces, armament and military expenses. Such a step would invalidate the Budapest proposal to NATO for simultaneous and considerable reduction of armed forces and conventional weapons in Europe.

With friendly greeting,

[signed]

P. Mladenov

22 September 1986, Sofia

CC of BCP "Foreign Policy and International Relations" Department supports the proposal and puts forward a project for making a decision.

29 September 1986

Senior Deputy Head of CC BCP "Foreign Policy and International Relations" Department:

K. Atanassov

[Source: Bulgarian State Security Archives, AMVR, Fond 1, Opis 11a, a.e. 353, p. 33. Translation by Vania Petkova]