

Report from the Minister of Foreign Affairs (Mladenov) to the Politburo of the CC of the BCP, 15 September 1987

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

01-05-19/16.9.87
Sofia, 15 September 1987

TO POLITBURO CC BCP

MEMORANDUM

From Petar Mladenov, Minister of Foreign Affairs

Re: Bulgarian position and proposals on forthcoming negotiations of armed forces and conventional weapons reduction in Europe.

Bulgaria supports actively common Warsaw Pact positions, but has its own new aims, concerned for the first time directly with important political, military and other aspects of its national security. A significant factor in this respect is Bulgaria's geographical location... The zone of negotiations is of particular importance for the country's security interests and for the security of the Warsaw Pact's Southern Flank

Turkey, supported by almost all NATO countries, opposes the inclusion of its whole Asian territory in the zone...

The Central European region has a central significance for the security of the Warsaw Pact. But no less important is the situation in Southern Europe, in particular the Balkans, where Bulgaria faces the armed forces of two NATO countries as well as US bases and troops (including Sixth Fleet). There is the very negative precedent of re-deployment of forces from Western Europe to NATO's Southern Flank... Some weaponry "reduced" in Western Europe could be transferred to modernize Greek and Turkish forces...

The focus on the Central European region is paralleled by some of its countries' desire to reduce their own defense expenditures, underestimating the risks and consequences for the Southern Flank of the Warsaw Pact. Romania and partly Hungary, taking advantage of their favorable surroundings, have already begun to cut their defense efforts.

Poland, Czechoslovakia, and Hungary unofficially have expressed reservations about the inclusion of the Asian territory of Turkey, because they are worried that this issue hamper the negotiations...

The Bulgarian position and proposals must therefore take into account the requirements of the Warsaw Pact's Southern Flank as well as the military, political and economic interests of Bulgaria...

[Source: Bulgarian Central State Archives, Sofia, Fond 1b, Opis 35, a.e. 715-787. Summary by Albena Stefanova]