
**Memorandum of Meeting of the Bulgarian and Romanian Deputy Foreign Ministers
regarding the CMFA Meeting in Sofia, 27 March 1988**

MEMORANDUM OF MEETING

Between Bulgarian Deputy Foreign Minister Ivan Ganev and Romanian Deputy Foreign Minister Constantin Oanca.

Subject: Resolution of the problems linked to the preparation of draft documents for the meeting of the Warsaw Pact Committee of Ministers of Foreign Affairs in Sofia.

[. . .]

The Bulgarian side expressed its bewilderment over the stance of the Romanian delegation on the final draft of the Warsaw Treaty's memorandum on the strengthening of military stability in Northern and Southern Europe and the Mediterranean. This step blocks debate during the preparatory meetings of the Committee of Ministers of Foreign Affairs (CMFA) over the memorandum.

[. . .]

Further, Com. Ganev asked Com. Oanca to inform his leadership of the following considerations:

We think the time has come for coordinating a position on this document . . .

[. . .]

The Bulgarian side is worried that NATO's superiority could increase in the wake of implementation of plans for "compensation" for US nuclear missiles subject to liquidation as well as plans for modernization of conventional forces. Also worrisome are the intentions of the bloc's strategists to re-deploy F-16 aircraft close to our borders as well as to increase the number of sea-based missiles in the Mediterranean.

In this situation we think that the Warsaw Pact must take a stand on issues directly affecting the security of the Southern flank of the Alliance and specifically the security of Bulgaria and Romania. This is the reason a proposal has been put forth that the CMFA Sofia meeting adopt a document on the issues of disarmament, security and confidence in Southern Europe. We believe that the interests of the two countries coincide.

[. . .]

Com. Oanca raised some questions concerning the preparation procedure for documents for the FMC Sofia meeting. He expressed dissatisfaction over the fact that experts from Bulgaria, East Germany, Poland, USSR, Hungary and Czechoslovakia have begun working on the memorandum even though there was no consensus. He knew of only one other precedent within the framework of the Warsaw Pact, on the occasion of "one bad case." (This most likely refers to a 1968 document on the Czechoslovakian crisis, when Romania stayed away from the voting.) It is important to draw the "line on the ability to suffer."

The Romanian deputy minister also shared the following considerations on specific issues:

- Bulgaria, Hungary and Poland's proposal on the renewal of the "Warsaw Treaty mechanism" working group. This was a very important question, which was of PCC authority

[...]

- A proposal for the organization of Warsaw Treaty members' parliaments. This issue has a political dimension and falls outside of the powers of the CMFA; it should be dealt with by the parliaments and national leaderships themselves.
- The USSR's proposal on the agenda for meetings of the Multilateral Group for Current Information (MGCI). The issues were outside the powers of the members of the Protocol group and the special representatives.

[. . .]

Sofia, March 27, 1988

[Source: Diplomatic Archive, Sofia, Opis 59p, a.e. 169, pp. 161-166. Summary by Vasil Yovchev]