

### **Speech of the First Secretary of the BCP (Zhivkov) in Warsaw, 15 July 1988**

Today a new situation is emerging which is favorable to our common effort at creating global security. I mean by that the results of the dynamic Soviet-US dialogue at the highest level. I also mean by that the possibility of reducing strategic attack weapons by 50%, real perspectives for the elimination of chemical weapons and complete ban on nuclear tests, as well as ideas and initiatives regarding the elimination of nuclear weapons on a step-by-step basis by the year 2000, etc.

Our [Bulgarian Communist] party fully supports the innovative policy of the Soviet leadership, its new strategic ideas, and striving to overcome difficulties in the international situation. We agree that the most urgent matter is overcoming the military threat in Europe. A document regarding conventional disarmament, which we will accept [at this session] is a response to this quest.

We also support the Soviet strategy of putting on the agenda such global questions as the reduction of nuclear, chemical and conventional weapons, and solution of regional issues.

New political thinking has found good ground in our region—the Balkans—as well. Here we have a specific situation. There are both Warsaw Treaty and NATO states. The Balkans cannot be considered separately from NATO and the Mediterranean basin. The objectively favorable opportunities for changing the situation in the southern European region for the better meet obstacles on the part of Turkey. It is not a coincidence, for example, that Turkey does not support the initiatives aimed at declaring the Balkans a nuclear and chemical weapons-free zone.

Bearing in mind the question of the global balance of [armed] forces, we have to mention that NATO member states have a considerable superiority in the southern part of the continent and specifically in the Balkans.

*[Source: Bulgarian Central State Archives, Sofia, Fond 1b, Opis 35, a.e. 111-188. Summary by Anya Jouravel]*