

**Information from the Minister of Foreign Affairs (Mladenov) to the Politburo of the BCP  
regarding the Political Consultative Committee Meeting in Warsaw,**

**18 July 1988**

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

To: CC BCP Politburo

**INFORMATION**

By Petar Mladenov, Minister of Foreign Affairs

Re: regularly held meeting of PCC of Warsaw Treaty countries

Comrades,

On 15 and 16 July 1988, the regular meeting of PCC of Warsaw Treaty countries was held in Warsaw. The primary conclusion drawn was that the threat of war has dissipated. The international arena is characterized by the transition from confrontation to cooperation. The beginning of nuclear weapons' reduction has been established and military activity itself has stopped being "a closed zone". Regional conflicts, such as the one in Afghanistan, have reached definite progress.

Soviet-American dialogue has moved to the center arena with its two main goals—concluding a treaty for a 50% reduction in offensive strategic weapons and achieving new possibilities for involving the whole American society in the process.

Considerable attention has been paid to West European integration and the possibility of the creation of its own military structure. The necessity for working out a "European" program has been recognized in accordance with the idea of a "common European home."

The issues of the forthcoming Vienna meeting were discussed with respect to conventional disarmament negotiations. The importance of data publishing for WTO and NATO Armed Forces was pointed out. The Bulgarian delegation defended the position for inclusion of the entire Turkish territory within the framework of future negotiations.

The Soviet delegation proposal for changing the WTO Armed Forces organizational structure within 2 – 3 years' time has been considered as well. This can be done through restructuring and redistribution of strategic echelons on the WTO and NATO fronts. At the present stage, WTO units and formations in Central Europe, comprised of 70,000 people, can be unilaterally dismissed. The basic principle of the Alliance's defense policy should be "minimum necessary expenses - maximum necessary results".

In Com. Todor Zhivkov's statement, special attention was paid to the multilateral Balkan dialogue. A theoretical conclusion was reached that the creation of a "Balkan community" should not be done either on an anti-Soviet and anti-socialist or an anti-American and anti-NATO basis. At the same time, the negative role of Turkey on the positive development process in the region was pointed out.

The Soviet delegation proposed creating a Center for Military Threat Reduction in Europe and organizing "round tables" and research "brain trust" in the international relations sphere, etc.

The meeting's official statement follows the positive tendencies in international relations, Soviet-American dialogue and the way they influence disarmament, security and cooperation.

The adopted declaration for reduction of armed forces and conventional weapons in Europe contributes to the joint platform of the PCC meetings in Budapest (1986) and Berlin (1987). It looks over the necessary measures during the first reduction stage. Especially important for Bulgarian security is that negotiation participants should not increase armed forces and weapons in the territories not covered by the first stage reductions.

Ecological problems in Europe due to the arms race are considered as well as multilateral and bilateral cooperation within WTO in this respect.

The PCC Protocol assigns to Defense Ministers Committee the publication of WTO and NATO data on the total number of armed forces in Europe.

The special position of the Romanian representatives again created some troubles in the discussions. This was primarily demonstrated in Ceausescu's statement... At the PCC meeting, very deep contradictions between Romania and Hungary over the issues of human rights and humanitarian cooperation appeared. Karoly Grosz stressed the necessity for the defense of individual and collective minority rights. At some points, bilateral problems in Romanian-Hungarian relations aggravated the discussion.

In connection with the results of the PCC Warsaw meeting, I propose the following to the Politburo of the CC of the BCP:

- To assign to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of National Defense to continue and develop a Bulgarian attitude for future negotiations with respect to the reduction of armed forces and conventional weapons in Europe.
- To prepare well-grounded considerations for making WP political and military infrastructure equivalent to the new realities
- To require the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in close collaboration with other concerned authorities, to study the proposals and ensure task fulfillment.

With fraternal greetings:

P. Mladenov

*[Source: Bulgarian Central State Archives, Fond 1b, Opis 35, a.e. 111-188. Translation by Svetoslava Antonova]*