
Information from the Minister of Foreign Affairs (Mladenov) to the Politburo of the CC of the BCP regarding the Vienna Summit, 2 February 1989

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Sofia, February 1989

TO: CC BCP POLITBURO

INFORMATION

From Petar Mladenov – Minister of Foreign Affairs

RE: Development and Results of All-European Vienna Summit

The results of the Vienna summit mark an "exceptionally important moment in the development of East-West relations in Europe, which defines the future dynamics of the reconstruction of the international relations in accordance with the principles of the new political thinking."

For the first time there appear some nuances and differences in the approaches and positions of each socialist country – in direct correlation with the forms and intensity of the reconstruction [*perestroika*] in each country.

The Warsaw Pact member states are relatively united on the military issues but have significant internal differences in the humanitarian area. There are substantial defects within the allied mechanism of coordination, which had effected the final results.

The line of the Soviet delegation was determined by the requirements of the democratization process in the USSR... The Hungarian and Polish delegations stressed on the necessity of a "non-bloc approach"... Hungary tried to internationalize its dispute with Romania and searched for Western support in pressing Bucharest. Contrary of its former practice, Romania tried to contribute to the elaboration of a united Warsaw Pact position...

The delegations of the GDR, ČSSR, Poland, and Romania found themselves in a difficult situation due to the constant pressure for "full openness in the humanitarian area"...

The West acted united, using its established NATO and EEC mechanisms for coordination... The Western strategy was directed at creating a control mechanism in the humanitarian area and thus influence the internal processes in the socialist countries, including the legalization and protection of the anti-socialist opposition...

1. A new mechanism will be established for two kinds of military negotiations: NATO-Warsaw Pact negotiations on conventional disarmament, and negotiations on the confidence building process in Europe with the participation of all 35 states. There are some difficulties concerning the type of the weapons and the

zone of negotiations, particularly the Asian part of Turkey... The responsibilities of the Warsaw Pact' Southern Flank require opposing significant exclusions of Turkish territory and forces the negotiations, Yugoslavia's non-participation in the negotiations, the Romanian striving for faster and one-sided armed reduction, Greek-Turkish arms race...

2. The most important results of the Vienna summit results concern the agreements on human rights and the human dimension.

At Bulgarian initiative, ecological cooperation was for the first time included in the Helsinki process. Despite resistance by the USA and Turkey and strong competition by Geneva, Sofia was chosen to host the meeting on ecology in late October... The preparation for the Sofia meeting requires from Bulgaria a flexible political and administrative approach and arrangement...

The agreements in the economic sphere are in a harmony with the new organization of the Bulgarian economy... The Helsinki process should be used to exert political pressure on the West to ensure more favorable conditions of trade, economic and scientific-technical cooperation...

[Source: Bulgarian Central State Archives, Sofia, Fond 1b, Opis 35, a.e. 26-89. Summary by Albena Stefanova]