
Information by the Minister of Foreign Affairs (Mladenov) to the Politburo of the CC of the BCP regarding the 18th Meeting of the CMFA, 24 April 1989

214a

Memorandum

Re: Closed Circle Meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs Held in the Evening of 10 April 1989 in the "Niederschönhausen" Residence, Berlin

The above-mentioned meeting started with a 30-minute speech delivered by O. Fischer, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the German Democratic Republic. He revealed the GDR's "special" opinion on the main issues in European and world politics.

Bulgarian Minister of Foreign Affairs Com. Petar Mladenov pointed out that the closed circle meetings could be effective only if they were carried out purposefully and with priority themes and questions. He said that he had prepared some considerations on the current event of the day—Vienna—for the upcoming meetings in London, Paris and Moscow.

Romanian Minister of Foreign Affairs J. Totu positively evaluated the consensus on the closing documents and stated that there are no differences with respect to the main issues.

ČSSR Minister of Foreign Affairs J. Johanes declared his consent on the prepared draft documents. He agreed with his Bulgarian colleague that it was high time to discuss preliminary coordination of the questions. With respect to cooperation, he pointed out that different opinions were not brought together. If a draft document prepared by the Bulgarian comrades was to be submitted in Sofia, they could help. Cooperation was working well within NATO. Therefore, the Committees of Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Ministers of National Defense should gather, and the information group should be used more actively and its recommendations considered.

The meeting lasted almost two hours. The statements led to the following preliminary conclusions:

For the first time at such a meeting and in such a manner, one of the countries—namely, the GDR—evaluated the international and European situation on the questions of dialogue using their unique, revised approach. Romania immediately supported the German attitude, and it could be said that in this respect both countries had agreed in advance. On these grounds it could be assumed that the attitudes and reactions of other countries on the eve of holding the PCC meeting in two months time were coordinated well.

The absence of Com. Shevardnadze impacted the discussion and the meeting as a whole. The Soviet representative carefully avoided commenting on the German theses and addressed them the following day. He advised against forming a second "closed circle" for taking a stand on the different and delicate questions

of principle or distinct character. Evidently, the absence of the Soviet Minister caused his Polish colleague not to express his views and the Hungarian one to refrain from speaking at all.

[Source: Bulgarian Central State Archives, Sofia, Fond 1b, Opis 35, a.e. 84-89. Summary by Vania Petkova]