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## Memorandum of the 23rd Meeting of the Warsaw Pact Multilateral Group for Current Mutual Information, 15 March 1990

Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
General International Affairs Department

### MEMORANDUM

Subject: Results of the 23rd meeting of the Multilateral Group for Current Mutual Information of Warsaw Treaty Member States

On March 13 and 14, 1990, the regular meeting of the Multilateral Group took place in Moscow. The following questions were discussed:

1. Development of the idea of conducting a high-level meeting of the CSCE member states.
2. The situation in the Balkans and the policies of the alliance states in Southeastern Europe.

[. . .]

On point 2 of the agenda:

The USSR, Poland and Czechoslovakia presented some ideas concerning the joint Balkan confederation and the policy of the alliance states in Southeastern Europe.

The importance of the Balkans was emphasized, this being the region where the dividing line between the two military-political alliances is drawn and a dialectical linkage between the development of the common Balkan and common European process exists. The opinions of some of the delegations sounded somewhat pessimistic with regard to the prospects for a common Balkan confederation. The representatives expressed the following reasons:

- The inherited contradictions, conflicts, and the recent exacerbation of bilateral relations between some of the Balkan states;
- The relatively weak economic ties among the states;
- The discrepancy in the dynamics of development in various areas of political and especially humanitarian cooperation.

The emergence of additional factors, such as the "Alps-Adriatic" initiative presupposes significant participation of Yugoslavia, which could lead to a shift in its interests.

[. . .]

In his speech, the representative of the USSR announced, as his personal opinion, that the argument that regionalism is historically and economically ineffective lacks any perspective. As an alternative, the possibility of an "opening" towards the Mediterranean (with the possible participation of Mediterranean countries in some all-Balkan initiatives) was suggested, and the necessity for closer interaction of the Balkan confederation with the Common European process was specifically emphasized. Interest was shown towards future movement towards realizing ideas such as "the Balkans as a nuclear and chemical weapons-free zone," and "A Code for Good Neighborly Relations."

[. . .]

In general, the assessment was made that Southeastern European policy of the alliance. . . is now gaining in importance in this region, for this region remains the least affected by the positive trends characteristic of Europe. The Bulgarian side stressed that the most tangible projection of Warsaw Treaty policy in Southeastern Europe concerning security is presently the 23-state negotiations in Vienna on issues such as "regional division." It was emphasized that our concern in connection with the necessity of giving guarantees for the security of all states at all stages of the reduction of conventional armed forces is becoming increasingly topical in light of the rapid movement toward completion of the work on the treaty.

*[Source: Diplomatic Archive, Sofia, Opus 47-10, a.e. 28, pp. 137-1. Translation by Vasil Yovchev]*