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Report
To the Politburo of the HSWP's Central Committee
On the deputy foreign ministers' meeting held on 26-27 February 1968 in Berlin
in preparation of the meeting of the Warsaw Treaty's Political Consultative Committee
1/ The Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty

After negotiations that have been going on in the UN's Eighteen-Nation Committee of Disarmament since 1965, an agreement on the question of a non-proliferation treaty is imminent. The Eighteen-Nation Committee will have until 15 March to prepare its report in this matter, to be submitted to the UN plenary session of March-April.

The essential points covered in the treaty are as follows:

The nuclear powers agree not to assist states not possessing nuclear weapons in obtaining or producing them.

The non-nuclear states agree not to obtain or produce nuclear weapons. The International Atomic Energy Agency is to inspect the non-nuclear states according to agreements to be signed later.

The Treaty will not prohibit research, production and application of nuclear technology for peaceful purposes. The nuclear powers are to assist the non-nuclear states in this without discrimination and under favorable terms.

All the signatories to the Treaty agree to make further efforts in order to bring the nuclear arms race to an end and to achieve general and complete disarmament.

The Treaty is made for a period of twenty-five years. Signatories to the Treaty will hold a meeting in five years time to evaluate the execution of the Treaty.

The Treaty was opposed by several non-nuclear states (for example, the FRG, Italy, Sweden, the U.A.R, Romania), some of which tried to obstruct its ratification by submitting further and further modifications. The United States and the Soviet Union, the two co-chairs of the disarmament conference, [*Editor's note: one line is illegible in the original text*] that the Committee may submit the text of the agreement to the 22nd session

of the UN General Assembly before 15 March 1968.

At Romanian's request, the Political Consultative Committee of the Warsaw Treaty will hold a conference in Sophia to discuss the issues of the Non-Proliferation Treaty. Romania wants to discuss its further modifications at the meeting. These have not yet been submitted to the Disarmament Committee.

The two fundamental elements of the Romanian modifications are as follows:

A/ The nuclear powers should stop producing nuclear weapons and agree to destroy their existing stockpile and transport vehicles.

B/ The nuclear powers pledge neither to use nor to threaten to use nuclear weapons against non-nuclear states.

(This proposal fails to take into consideration the possibility of non-nuclear states allowing a nuclear state to deploy nuclear weapons on their territory – i.e., the FRG.)

All the delegates at the deputy foreign ministers' conference, where Comrade Károly Erdélyi represented our country, concurred in the view that the ratification of the Non-Proliferation Treaty would constitute a major step towards disarmament; that it is a

welcome development (especially, since it would prevent the FRG from becoming a nuclear power); and that this is an opportune moment for getting the Treaty signed. The participants – with the exception of the Romanian delegation – also agreed that there was no chance for the approval of the Romanian modifications, on account of their being extremist and unrealistic. Submitting these proposals would only either delay or possibly even foil the signing of the Treaty.

The Romanian delegation was unwilling to enter into a substantial discussion of their proposed modifications, claiming that this was outside the competence of the Political Consultative Committee.

2/ The Vietnamese Situation

Instead of conducting a detailed discussion, the conference of deputy foreign ministers agreed that the Bulgarian comrades – after consulting the Soviet and the Polish comrades – would draft a statement, which would then form the basis of the discussion by the Political Consultative Committee. The draft statement about the Vietnamese situation would be sent out to the foreign ministries of the member states by the Bulgarian side by March 3.

4/The Actual Problems of European Security, with a Focus on the Danger of Neo-Nazism in the FRG

On instructions from its Party and government, the Czechoslovak delegation proposed that this question be added to the agenda of the Political Consultative Committee. The conference did not form an opinion on this question. The other delegations agreed to put the issue to their superiors for consideration.

Draft Resolution

1/ The [HSWP] Political Committee has agreed to the inclusion of the following three items in the agenda of the March 6 session of the Warsaw Treaty's Political Consultative Committee in Sophia:

- a/ a discussion of the draft version of the Treaty of Nuclear Non-Proliferation;
- b/ an exchange of views on the Vietnamese situation;
- c/ the questions related to the establishment of the staff and the military council assigned to the High Command of the Unified Armed Forces.

2/ The delegation representing our Central Committee and Government should be comprised of the following comrades:

János Kádár

Jenő Fock

Lajos Czinege

János Péter

3/ In line with the principles we have been professing so far, our delegation supported the Soviet plan in the matter of the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty.

4/ In the form of brief comments, the statement to be published in support of Vietnam should cover other actual topics (the Pueblo affair, the rising threat of neo-nazism).

Budapest, 29 February 1968.

(János Péter)

[Translated by Ervin Dunay, Central European University]

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