
FOREIGN MINISTRY
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2 appendices
Report
To the Revolutionary Workers and Peasants' Government
on the 30-31 October 1969 Prague meeting of the representatives
of the seven socialist countries' foreign ministries

I.

1) The meeting of the Warsaw Treaty countries' foreign ministers, along with the two preceding meetings of the deputy foreign ministers, was a major intermediary step on the road to prepare the conference on European security: it settled the question of the agenda, the circle of the participants and a draft proposal for the closing document. By bringing their views into harmony and presenting them to the western power, the seven socialist countries completed another phase in the preparation of the conference, while holding on to the initiative and influencing the NATO's December meeting to discuss matters pertaining to the conference on European security. The socialist countries proposed to items for the conference on European security:

- a) The establishment of European security and the denouncement of the use of force, and also the threat to use force, against European countries;
- b) The broadening of the commercial, economic and scientific/technological relations between the European countries, that serves the political cooperation and is based on equality.

On the list of countries invited, there was agreement in that we must anticipate the participation of the United States and Canada. On tactical considerations, however, we shall agree to the admission of two non-European countries to the conference only if the GDR's representation on par with that of the FRG and all the other European countries seems secured. Until then we must reiterate our earlier view: it must be left to the European countries whether they allow the United States and Canada to participate.

The Prague meeting of the foreign ministers approved three documents:

- a) a statement by the foreign ministers, which was published in the Hungarian press on November 1;
- b-c) the draft proposals for the closing document of the conference on European security, which are appended to this report.

On 21 October, therefore still before the publication, the Czechoslovak diplomatic representatives handed the Deputy Foreign Ministers' statement over to all the European governments in the company of a diplomatic memorandum. With this move we stress the point that, instead of a piece of propaganda, we regard the preparation of the European Conference a question of intergovernmental cooperation.

The Czechoslovak foreign offices handed the two draft proposals for the closing document of the conference on European security to the governments of the European countries on the week beginning with 3 November. These two draft proposals are not published in the press in order to demonstrate the seriousness of our intentions to the Western powers and also to leave our hands free in case of possible future changes.

The foreign ministers' meeting concurred in the view that the main task for the immediate future will be the presentation and explanation of our joint platform. For this reason we must activate our contacts with these countries.

We have also agreed that, following the NATO's session in December, a meeting of the deputy foreign ministers will be convened to harmonize the further tasks

There was also agreement regarding the establishment of a team of the seven countries' foreign policy and economics experts with the purpose of working out the problems of European economic cooperation. The Hungarian Foreign Ministry will initiate and coordinate these efforts. In connection with this work the participants emphasized two elements: on the one hand the conference on European security must focus on the first item of the agenda, the political issues; on the other hand in the discussions regarding the economic cooperation, we must concentrate on the elimination of discriminations and the Western world's economic isolation.

2) The Prague meeting of the foreign ministers was characterized by unity in the fundamental issues.

At the same time the Prague discussions demonstrated that there were differences in the views of the various countries in certain questions. The Polish comrades press on with their proposal to add to the agenda the issue the collective security system of Europe, as well as the fundamental ideas of the Gomulka–Rapacki plan. The rest of the participants once again pointed out the maximalistic character of the Polish proposals, emphasizing that the above ideas would better be proposed for discussion at a later stage of European security conferences. However, we cannot exclude the possibility that the Polish side will come forward with their proposals in other platforms.

The Romanian representatives treat the question of the European security conference with some distance, possibly because they feel that it would strengthen the Soviet Union's influence in European issues.

The East-German delegation wants to achieve - at least for the time being - that the European security conference, instead of de facto recognizing the GDR, should grant full international legal status to their country.

One positive result of the harmonization of the Socialist countries' views is that the Soviet comrades have accepted the Hungarian proposals for the establishment of European security conferences and the permanent institution of European security.

II.

3) In a general form, the relations towards the FRG were also discussed at the Prague meeting.

Comrade Winzer laid emphasis on those elements in Brandt's official statement that referred to the continuity of West-German politics. He stressed the point that now was the time for the socialist countries to demand the GDR's full international recognition by the FRG. One is under the impression that the East-German comrades have now made up their mind to push ahead with their "all or nothing" policies towards the FRG. In a tactful and indirect way, Comrade Gromiko tried to correct Comrade Winzer's ideas. He emphasized that the socialist countries must conduct an active, concerted political strategy based on the realities in connection with the FRG. He suggested that we wait with the issuing of statements in order to see what actions will follow the words. He indicated that the first secretaries of the Communist parties would probably meet to discuss this question.

To facilitate the better understanding of Brandt's motifs, he revealed that on 29 October the West-German Chancellor informed Comrade Carapkin that his country intended sign the nuclear test-ban treaty in the near future. Brandt asked the Soviet Union to somehow incorporate in the treaty's text a clause that guarantees the FRG's right to utilize nuclear

energy for peaceful purposes. In Comrade Gromiko's view this demand could be met. On this occasion Brandt also indicated that, in addition to the Soviet Union, they were willing to sign a bilateral treaty with the GDR on the renouncement of military force, pointing out that, in the FRG's interpretation, the signature of the treaty would not mean the international recognition of the GDR.

III.

[Draft resolution]

The .../1969 Resolution of the Hungarian Revolutionary Workers and Peasants' Government

on the tasks related to the European security conference and on the measures in connection with Albania, in the light of the Prague meeting of the seven socialist countries' foreign ministry representatives

1) The Government accepts the report of the foreign ministry delegation attending the Prague meeting.

2) In preparation for the European security conference, the Foreign Ministry – pending on Comrade Péter's health condition as well as on other factors – will conduct the meetings with the foreign ministers of Yugoslavia, Belgium, Denmark, Norway, Sweden and The Netherlands, which are due in the remaining part of 1969 and in the first half of 1970, in the spirit of the Prague meeting.

At the level of deputy ministers and chief heads of departments, the Foreign Ministry will carry out the consultations related to the preparation of the European security conference with representatives of the British, French, West-German, Austrian and Turkish foreign ministries.

3) The deputy foreign minister concerned should take part in the conference held in Sophia between the Warsaw Treaty members with the purpose of developing a concerted and more active policy towards Albania.

Budapest, 4 November 1969 Károly Erdélyi

Deputy foreign minister

[Translated by Ervin Dunay, Central European University]

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