

Ministry of Foreign Affairs
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Strictly Confidential

To: Comrade János Kádár
Comrade György Lázár
Comrade András Gyenes

About the preparations for the meeting of the Warsaw Treaty's Political Consultative Committee

Comrade István Roska reports from Moscow on 17 November:

The first consultation of the Deputy Foreign Ministers was held on Thursday. The Chair of the meeting was Malcev, the First Deputy of the Foreign Minister of the Soviet Union. He said the following: when assembling the proposals the main purpose was to create documents with transparent structure and style, it was decided that no room was allowed for details, the features of the Warsaw Treaty should be reflected and that the evaluation should happen on departmental level. The first draft was received very well during the bilateral consultations. In the same time, there were comments, fine-tuning, and additional information. The second draft took all these into consideration. Attempt was made to maintain the political content of the first draft.

Following his introduction, the Deputy Foreign Ministers declared that they did not want to make any substantial comments regarding the first draft and considered it good. However, they were also willing to accept as the basis of the discussions the second draft, although it contained some recommendations, which they thought resulted in substantial changes. They raised concerns that the finalizing of the text was progressing too slowly, when the new draft was still to be submitted for approval to the appropriate bodies. The Romanian Deputy Foreign Minister articulated that the PCC declaration should reflect the changes, which had taken place in the past two years. The Romanian party deemed the content of the document the most important, and therefore he suggested that no time should be spared in order to develop it. The right proportion of the sections discussing Europe and the problem of the world, as well as the most suitable format of the document and a constructive, dynamic and political tone of voice should be found. The consultation requested that the experts should complete the harmonization of the various draft documents by the evening of 17 November, when the next meeting of the Deputy Foreign Ministers will be held.

Comrade Firyubin, First Secretary of the Warsaw Treaty, gave a briefing about the institutional and procedural issues related to the PCC Meeting:

- The location will be the Great Hall of the conference building on the Lenin Hill, near to the accommodation of the delegations;
- According to plans the meeting will commence at 11:00 A.M. on 22 November with the welcoming remarks of Comrade Brezhnev.
- The agenda will follow the usual practice. The first Chair will be Comrade Gierek, the Chair of the second meeting will be Comrade Ceausescu.
- The agenda of the meeting is as follows:
 - a) Next steps to be taken in order to bring the arms race to an end, to prevent a thermonuclear war, to consolidate détente, and to solve the upcoming problems in

relation to European security.

- b) Report of the Commander in Chief of the Unified Armed Forces.
- c) Acceptance of the agenda.

The planned exact date of the ratification was not discussed during Comrade Firyubin's briefing.

On 17 November, at noon, Comrade Firyubin called our chargé in Moscow to his office and briefed him about the members of the Soviet delegation to the PCC meeting:

- 1) Comrade Brezhnev
- 2) Comrade Kosigin
- 3) Comrade Suslov
- 4) Comrade Gromiko
- 5) Comrade Chernienko
- 6) Comrade Rusakov
- 7) Comrade Aleksandrov
- 8) Comrade Blatov

Budapest, 17 November 1978

[Translated by Ervin Dunay, Central European University]

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