

**Berlin, 3 December 1979**  
**Coded telegram**

**Strictly confidential!**  
**Prepared by Kiss s. 22.00**  
**Checked by ... [signature Simon]**

**To be forwarded to Comrade Puja at 8:30 a.m.**

The meeting of the deputy ministers was convened on 3 December, late afternoon, with the purpose of preparing for the meeting of the Foreign Ministers' Committee. Krabatsch, chairman of the advisors' meetings, summed up the work done so far.

On behalf of Romania:

- They want to include their recommendation in relation to the unilateral disarmament, which had been rejected by the other member states;
- They do not agree with including the paragraph condemning NATO's plan to plant medium range nuclear missiles;
- They do not agree to confirm in the communiqué the Spring of 1980 as the starting date of the consultations which would prepare the ground for the all-European conference related to military détente and disarmament.

They insisted that the communiqué should confirm: the multilateral meeting to be convened in preparation of the Madrid conference should be held in spring 1980.

They did not agree that the Foreign Ministers' Committee should confirm in the minutes the date of the PCC for May 1980.

- The Soviet and the Hungarian experts opposed that the communiqué should include the text about positioning the Madrid conference on a higher level.

The Polish and the Hungarian experts suggested that Point 7 should be omitted (concerning the reactionary forces obstructing the détente process, preventing aggressive activities directed against other states, and the principles regarding the relationship between states).

The closely cooperating deputy ministers, who voiced their opinion, although approached the issue differently, all firmly refused to accept the Romanian suggestion about unilateral disarmament.

In absence of Comrade Malcev, Comrade Mendielevic pointed out that there were more open questions waiting for negotiations than had been before. He emphasized that since most of these did not concern matters of principle, it would be easy to resolve them soon. Oncea observed that during the experts' meetings several difficult issues were resolved and that the Romanian party still intended to close down the open questions before the foreign ministers arrived.

Without repeating the aforementioned Romanian arguments regarding the open questions, he added the following:

- Only about half of the member states responded partially to their suggestions regarding unilateral disarmament. Therefore, they are not in the position to take this initiative off the agenda. He announced that they were ready to withdraw their suggestion regarding the text about the unilateral disarmament, if the other member states could agree with the following: we should indicate in the communiqué our intent to reduce our military forces in case individual NATO members would do the same.
- They would not oppose the inclusion of the paragraph regarding the installment of nuclear missiles, but they found objectionable that the paragraph repeated word

by word what Comrade Gromyko had said at the press conference in Bonn. They suggested that a rewording was necessary.

- The way the communiqué discusses the plan to position the Madrid conference on a higher level was the minimum what they were able to endorse.

He requested that the Hungarian and Polish reservations regarding Point 7 of the communiqué, which was supported by all closely cooperating parties, should be withdrawn.

- They did not oppose accepting that the minutes should include next May as the date of the PCC, but they requested that the exact date should not be affirmed.

The meeting of the deputy ministers was closed without having had substantive disputes, leaving all the debated issues open.

The next meeting of the deputy ministers will be held on 4 December, at 1:00 pm.

During the bilateral discussions we have reached an agreement with Oncea that he would accept – on his level – the proposed May date for the 25th anniversary of the Warsaw Pact with the comment “as possible”.

István Roska  
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CC: Comrade Petrán  
Comrade Bobvos

*[Translated by Ervin Dunay, Central European University]*

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