

Dear Comrade Korniyenko!

Dear Comrades!

I would like to express my gratitude to our Soviet hosts for convening the present consultation, and also for providing excellent conditions for our work. We listened to Comrade Korniyenko's speech with great interest, and agreed to everything he said.

It is a well known fact that in their foreign politics the socialist countries have consistently been focusing on the issues of peace and peaceful coexistence, the strengthening of international security, the averting of a nuclear catastrophe and the promotion of disarmament. The current, extremely complex world political situation requires our countries to double our efforts in getting Lenin's principle of a peaceful coexistence accepted and to bring about improvements in the international atmosphere. The synchronized foreign political activities of our countries provide one of the main guarantees for attaining our goal.

The underlying cause of the growing international tensions in the past few years can be traced to efforts by the extreme power centers of imperialism – above else the US – to change the existing balance in the military/strategic situation and to attain military supremacy, in the interest of which they have launched large-scale armament programs. The aggressive plans to militarize outer space may open a new and extremely dangerous phase in the arms race. In this new situation, the Soviet Union and the Warsaw Treaty members consequently stick to their earlier position, whereby they do not strive for military supremacy; they are ready to maintain the military balance at a lower level and willing to conduct negotiations aimed at ending the arms race and promoting arms limitations on the principles of equality and equal security. At every available opportunity, we emphatically reiterate our conviction that there is no such dispute in the world, which could not be resolved through negotiations. We have given practical demonstration of this conviction by submitting a whole list of concrete proposals, which took into account the other side's interests and have been left on the table to this day. Eliciting a favorable response from the more realistically inclined Western politicians, our joint efforts are being supported by the peace-loving forces of the world. In the past years, the peace movements of substantial political influence have raised their voice against both the frantic arms race whipped up by the US in various parts of the world and deployment of American intermediate-range missiles in Europe.

Dear Comrades!

The People's Republic of Hungary welcomes the new set of negotiations, which are about to take place between the Soviet Union and the United States, regarding the talks as a step forward in breaking the current, rather unpleasant atmosphere in international affairs. We see this development as an important milestone in the Soviet Union's political campaign for peace. We fully support the Soviet Union's position, whereby these complex and interrelated problems cannot be studied or solved independently of each other. We know the Soviet negotiating positions and intentions and place full our confidence in them. If the US complies with the principal agreement reached in Geneva, whereby the problems of star-based and nuclear weapons should be studied and resolved in a complex and interrelated manner, then the results will be bound to follow. Clearly, the peace-loving nations of the world, including our countries, would like to see such developments that reduce the risks of war.

Just as it has been proved to be the case so many times in history, the negotiations on such momentous questions can bring results only when both sides strive for an agreement in a sincere and constructive spirit. The Soviet Union went into the negotiations in such a spirit. What we need now is that the United States follows suit and abandons its current doctrine designed to achieve military superiority, so

as to be able to negotiate with the Soviet Union from a “position of strength.” The intention to achieve unilateral advantages at the negotiating table is similarly doomed to failure. Unfortunately, at the moment there is no indication of the United States’ willingness to adopt a realistic position; however, we must not exclude the possibility that the firm yet flexible approach of the Soviet Union, in conjunction with the pressure of world opinion and the internal and external problems of the US, would eventually force the American leadership to move towards a realistic compromise.

Dear Comrades!

We welcome the Geneva talks and we assign utmost significance to them; we are determined to do our best to create an atmosphere that is conducive to the success of the negotiations. We are convinced that this is in the common good. In its future international activities, the People’s Republic of Hungary wishes to play an active role in supporting and promoting the Soviet position during the negotiations with the leading circles of the NATO members.

Even the major allies of the US have reacted to the American “Star War” plans differently and with apparent reservations. The frostiest reception was in France, but the Italians also voiced their reservations. Certain Western experts are of the opinion that by pressing ahead with the “Star Wars” project, the United States may produce an even greater division among the NATO members than the deployment of the intermediate-range missiles in Western Europe had done. We believe that this situation offers us some opportunities that we must seize upon in our work with the Western Europeans.

We have no doubts that the negotiations will be difficult, complex and lengthy. Nevertheless, we strongly condemn the American attempts to write off the negotiations from the start, describing them as a hopeless undertaking doomed to failure. These attempts are meant to conceal the Americans’ real intention to save their armament program, including the militarization of outer space. We must expose them for what they are. We must prevent the emergence of this situation; we must create conditions that will force the American leadership to return to normality in international affairs, to an improvement in Soviet-American relations.

Dear Comrades!

We are convinced that the present consultation and exchange of opinions have been both timely and useful, and that we shall be able to use the results in our future work.

Thank you for your attention.

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

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