

territory of Germany, including the armed forces of the German Democratic Republic, and the German Federal Republic, should have no atomic weapons. Such an agreement would be a step forward in lessening tension in Europe and would also be in the interests of the German people.

The exchange of views between the leading statesmen of the Four Powers, which took place in Geneva last July and October, revealed the desire of the parties concerned to settle by peaceful means, through negotiations, the differences existing between them. Of great significance in this connection would be the assumption by the states that are parties to the Warsaw Treaty, on the one hand, and those which are parties to the North Atlantic Treaty, on the other, of obligations to settle disputes and differences arising between them by peaceful means exclusively.

The parties to the Warsaw Treaty adhere to the opinion that the establishment of good relations and the settlement of controversial issues between countries, irrespective of their possible affiliation at the present time to one or another military grouping, would be of great significance for the consolidation of peace. This applies especially to neighbour countries. Of great importance in this connection would be the establishment of good neighbourly relations, in particular between the Soviet Union, Turkey, Bulgaria, Greece, Albania, Italy, Czechoslovakia, and the German Federal Republic. Of great significance also would be the establishment of normal relations between states which hitherto have not maintained such relations.

Pending agreement on the establishment of an effective system of security in Europe, an important contribution to strengthening such security and creating the necessary confidence between European states would be the conclusion by the countries concerned of non-aggression treaties and the assumption by them of obligations to resolve controversial issues solely by peaceful means.

The Governments of the Soviet Union, Poland, Czechoslovakia, the German Democratic Republic, Hungary, Rumania, Bulgaria and Albania declare their resolve to dedicate their efforts to the noble cause of strengthening peace among nations. They express their readiness to examine, jointly with other interested states, urgent problems of European security and other outstanding international problems, including measures designed to end the arms drive and to deliver mankind from the threat of atomic war. At the same time they will continue to display the necessary concern for safeguarding their security and are fully resolved to do everything necessary to protect the peace-

ful labour of their citizens, to ensure the peaceful development and prosperity of their peoples.

For the People's Republic of Albania: M. SHEHU, B. BALLUKU

For the People's Republic of Bulgaria: R. DAMYANOV, P. BLANCHEVSKY

For the Hungarian People's Republic: A. HEGEDUS, I. BATA

For the German Democratic Republic: W. ULBRICHT, W. STOPH

For the Polish People's Republic: J. CYRIANKIEWICZ, K. ROKOSSOWSKI

For the Rumanian People's Republic: STOICA CHIVU, L. SALAJAN

For the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics: V. MOLOTOV, G. ZHUKOV

For the Czechoslovak Republic: A. CEPICKA, V. DAVID

PRAGUE, JANUARY 28, 1956

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*Communiqué on the Session of the Political Consultative Committee
of the Warsaw Treaty Powers
28 January 1956 **

The Political Consultative Committee of the states that are parties to the Treaty of Friendship, Co-operation and Mutual Assistance, concluded in Warsaw on May 14, 1955, met in Prague on January 27 and 28.

On the proposal of Marshal of the Soviet Union I. S. Konev, Commander-in-Chief of the unified armed forces, the statute of the unified command was considered and approved, and organisational matters connected with the activities of the unified armed forces of the Warsaw Treaty powers were settled.

The committee accepted the proposal of the delegation of the German Democratic Republic that, upon the establishment of a national people's army of the German Democratic Republic, its armed contingents, would be incorporated in the unified armed forces. It was decided also that the Minister of National Defence of the German Democratic

* *For a Lasting Peace, For a People's Democracy* (Bucharest), 3 February 1956.