

for military purposes, of sending American planes with atomic and hydrogen bombs to the frontiers of the Soviet Union or of restricting international trade—in all these cases this device, which is far from new, is brought into play.

Can anyone have forgotten that the preparations of Hitler Germany for the Second World War were also carried out under the banner of the struggle against the “danger” of communism. Millions upon millions of people who let themselves be misled by that false propaganda paid for it with their lives in the last war. It cannot be assumed that the nations have not drawn conclusions from those dramatic lessons and have not learned, on the basis of their own experience, to discern the real source of the threat of war.

The states united by the Warsaw Treaty and also the socialist states of Asia do not have and cannot have any motives for attacking other countries and seizing foreign lands. The Soviet Union, the Chinese People's Republic and the socialist camp as a whole possess immense expanses of land and untold natural resources. But the main wealth of the socialist countries are the people, the inexhaustible creative force of the nations which have liberated themselves from exploitation and are following the path of social progress. There is no chance of any groups or sections of the population interested in war emerging in any of these countries, since power in them is wielded by the workers and peasants and they are the ones who bear the greatest sacrifices in any war. They create all the necessary material wealth with their own hands and it is not in their nature to covet what is not theirs.

The people of our countries are devoting all their efforts to the creation of a new social system which will guarantee general prosperity and allow for the comprehensive and maximum development of man's spiritual abilities. And for this purpose they need, first and foremost, firm and lasting peace. That is why nothing can be more remote from the truth than the allegations that the socialist countries can threaten anyone or that they want to force their way of life on to others.

The states that are parties to the Warsaw Treaty have no reason whatsoever to fear the easing of international tension; they are united, not by the “cold war” atmosphere, not by the state of war hysteria in which the advocates of military preparations want to keep the world, but by their common ideals and aims in the building of the new socialist society and the strengthening of peace among nations. An improvement in the international situation is feared by those who do not want to risk the loss of fabulous profits extracted from the pockets of

taxpayers owing to the arms race, and who stand for the preservation of military groupings, the existence of which will become absolutely unjustifiable and superfluous if tension decreases, if confidence among the states is enhanced and the "cold war" ended.

The states signatories to the Warsaw Treaty resolutely condemn the course pursued in NATO by the leading states of this aggressive grouping — a course aimed at worsening the international situation and preparing for an atomic war. They call upon the governments of the countries of the North Atlantic Alliance not to permit at the present critical time any steps that might further worsen the already grave situation in Europe and in some other parts of the world. For the war danger not to grow, but to decrease, for mutual mistrust and suspicion among states to give way to confidence and business-like co-operation, it is necessary, above all, to refrain from such actions as the reckless deeds of the American air force or the decision concerning the atomic arming of Western Germany, which constitutes a challenge to all European nations.

The socialist countries of Europe and Asia have given ample proof of their goodwill and desire for co-operation with other states in the interests of strengthening peace among nations. All the parties to the Warsaw Treaty have repeatedly carried out unilateral reductions of their armed forces, which, since 1955, have been reduced by 2,477,000 men. The armaments, war material and defence expenditures of these countries have been reduced accordingly. During this period the Soviet Union has cut its armed forces by 2,140,000 men; the Polish People's Republic has cut its armed forces by 141,500 men, the corresponding figure for the Czechoslovak Republic being 44,000; for the German Democratic Republic, 30,000; the Rumanian People's Republic, 60,000; the People's Republic of Bulgaria, 18,000; the Hungarian People's Republic, 35,000; and the People's Republic of Albania, 9,000.

No one can deny that states carrying out reductions in their armed forces to such a considerable extent are preparing, not for war, but for peaceful co-operation. And on the contrary, when states are building up their armaments and increasing their armed forces, this is a sure sign that they, or rather those who shape their policy, are thinking not of peace, but of war.

It appears that the NATO countries are responding to the reduction of the armed forces and military expenditures of the states that are parties to the Warsaw Treaty by increasing the number of their troops, augmenting their military budgets and building up their armaments. By pursuing this policy, the NATO leaders would like to prevent the re-

laxation of international tension and the reaching of agreement among states which would guarantee their peaceful co-existence, and in that way to impel the Warsaw Treaty states to participate in the arms race and in the "cold war," so as to slow down peaceful construction and the improvement of the living standards of the peoples of the socialist countries. All this makes it incumbent upon the peoples to be on their guard and to be more active in the struggle against forces working towards the preparations for war.

The participants in the conference take pride in the fact that of the three powers possessing nuclear weapons it was a state belonging to the Warsaw Treaty Organisation, namely the Soviet Union, that undertook a step of a very humane nature in adopting the decision to discontinue tests of all types of atomic and hydrogen weapons. This noble step of historic significance paves the way for the final deliverance of mankind from the threat of a devastating atomic war. The government of the Chinese People's Republic has taken, and is rapidly carrying out, the decision to withdraw the Chinese volunteers from Korea. The United States would have contributed in no small measure to the consolidation of peace in the Far East and to the settlement of the Korean question if it had followed the example of People's China and withdrawn its forces from South Korea, also dismantling all its bases on South Korean territory.

The government of the Polish People's Republic has displayed valuable initiative, which has as its aim the removal of the danger of an atomic war in Europe and which has met with wide international recognition, in proposing the creation in Central Europe of a zone free from the production, deployment and use of atomic, hydrogen and rocket weapons.

The proposal of the government of the German Democratic Republic concerning the establishment of a German confederation has opened up a real prospect for ending the unnatural situation in Germany which, 13 years after the end of the war, still remains split into two parts. The governments of the states represented at the conference express their appreciation of this proposal and give it their whole-hearted support.

With a view to settling urgent international issues and meeting the universal demand of the peoples that measures be taken to ease international tension and eliminate the "cold war", the Soviet Union, having consulted the other socialist countries, came out with a proposal that a summit conference be held of leading statesmen of East and West. The governments of the Warsaw Treaty countries regard the summit con-

ference as a major means, in the existing circumstances, to protect mankind from the disaster of war and to direct developments in the international field towards the strengthening of peace. The participants in the conference express their satisfaction at the fact that the agenda for the summit conference proposed by the Soviet side contains questions for whose solution there exist real prerequisites and whose settlement would promote an improvement in the situation and the strengthening of security in Europe, and would also facilitate the removal of mutual distrust. These questions are: the immediate ending of tests of atomic and hydrogen weapons; renunciation by the USSR, the United States and Great Britain of the use of nuclear weapons; the establishment in Central Europe of a zone free from atomic, hydrogen and rocket weapons; the conclusion of a non-aggression agreement between members of the North Atlantic Alliance and states parties to the Warsaw Treaty; the reduction of the number of foreign troops on the territory of Germany and within the frontiers of other European states; the drawing up of an agreement on questions connected with the prevention of a surprise attack; measures for the extension of international trade ties; the ending of war propaganda; ways of easing tension in the Middle East area; prohibition of the use of outer space for military purposes, the liquidation of foreign military bases on alien territories, and international co-operation in exploring outer space; the conclusion of a German peace treaty; the development of ties and contacts between countries.

First among these questions is the ending of atomic and hydrogen weapon tests. The governments responsible for the destinies of their peoples have no right to ignore the warnings uttered by thousands of scientists from various countries of the world against the harmful effects of atomic and hydrogen weapons tests and the dreadful consequences of a nuclear war. One cannot but take into account the warnings of the scientists who point out that in the event of atomic and hydrogen weapon tests continuing further as they have hitherto, millions of people in every generation will be affected by hereditary diseases.

The immediate ending of atomic and hydrogen weapons tests accords with the hopes and aspirations of people all over the world who are alarmed by the dreadful consequences of these tests. An agreement on this issue would halt the creation of new and ever more lethal types of nuclear weapons and would be a major step towards the cessation of the atomic arms race.

One cannot fail to see that the refusal by the governments of the United States and Britain to follow the example set by the Soviet Union,



and the continuation of their atomic and hydrogen weapons tests can only throw mankind back to the starting point on this question, which is of the utmost importance for its destiny, in which case the grave responsibility would rest entirely with the governments of the United States and Britain. The participants in the conference declare that the peoples of the states they represent, being fully determined to use all possible means to promote the consolidation of peace and the prevention of a new world conflagration, are interested in establishing in the centre of the European continent a zone free of atomic, hydrogen and rocket weapons and including the two German states—the German Democratic Republic and the Federal Republic of Germany—and also Poland and Czechoslovakia.

In giving support to the proposal of the Polish People's Republic on the establishment of a zone free from nuclear and rocket weapons, the participants in the conference are not seeking any military advantages for themselves.

A comparison between the territories of the states to be included in an atom-free zone will show that the territory of the German Democratic Republic, Czechoslovakia and Poland is more than double that of the fourth state in this zone—Western Germany. Furthermore, the population of the Warsaw Treaty states in this zone also exceeds the population of the member of the North Atlantic Alliance in this zone. As regards their own production of nuclear weapons it is known that none of these countries—the German Democratic Republic, Czechoslovakia, Poland or the Federal Republic of Germany—manufactures this kind of weapon. Moreover, the government of the Federal Republic of Germany at one time assumed an international obligation not to manufacture such weapons in the future. All this is evidence of the absence of any grounds for supposing that the establishment of an atom-free zone will offer any one-sided military advantage to the Warsaw Treaty countries to the detriment of the interests of NATO states. On the contrary, the realism of the proposal for an atom-free zone in Europe consists in the very fact that the member-states of NATO would, in accordance with this proposal, reciprocally undertake such measures in the field of atomic disarmament as would, taken as a whole, be equal in their military significance.

The participants in the conference welcome the readiness of the Soviet Union as one of the major states possessing nuclear weapons, to assume the obligation to respect the status of the atom-free zone and to regard the territory of the countries of this zone as being excluded from the sphere of the use of atomic, hydrogen and rocket weapons.