

national situation and exchanged views on such important problems as universal and total disarmament and the conclusion of a peace treaty with Germany.

N. S. Khrushchev, Chairman of the U.S.S.R. Council of Ministers, delivered a report on the substantial new reduction of the armed forces undertaken by the Soviet Union and on the U.S.S.R.'s position at the forthcoming summit meeting.

In the course of the comprehensive exchange of views, the representatives of the countries participating in the conference coordinated their future actions to consolidate and develop the relaxation of international tension that has begun.

The conferees resolved to continue mutual consultations in the course of preparations for the heads-of-government meeting in Paris.

The conference of the Political Consultative Committee took place in an atmosphere of complete mutual understanding and firm friendship. The exchange of views revealed complete unanimity both in the evaluation of the international situation and with respect to the specific questions discussed. The Political Consultative Committee adopted a declaration of the Warsaw Pact states.

DOCUMENT 174

*Declaration of the Warsaw Pact States 4 February 1960 **

The Warsaw Pact states note with satisfaction that since the previous conference of the Political Consultative Committee of the Warsaw Pact Organization, held in May, 1958, a definite change for the better has taken place in the international situation. After many years of "cold war" between the states that make up the groupings opposed to each other, normal peacetime relations are beginning to be established for the first time, tension has relaxed noticeably and ways of strengthening mutual trust are opening up. The world has now entered a phase of negotiations on settlement of the fundamental disputed international issues with a view to establishing lasting peace; the proponents of the "cold war" are suffering defeat.

This improvement in the international situation is based on im-

* *Current Digest of the Soviet Press* (Ann Arbor, Mich.), vol. 12, no. 5, pp. 8-12.

portant changes that have occurred in recent years in the correlation of forces in the world arena.

These years have seen the tempestuous growth of the economic might of the Soviet Union, the Chinese People's Republic and the other socialist countries and their increased unity within the framework of the united socialist camp. These have been years marked by the great achievements of the Soviet Union in science and technology. The placing in orbit of the first artificial earth satellite, the launching of a rocket to the moon's surface and penetration of the secret of the other side of the moon, which is never turned toward the earth—these are the grand results of these achievements by the world's first socialist state, which have raised mankind to a new level in its struggle to know and subjugate the forces of nature.

Finally, the past few years have been marked by a new upsurge in the activity of all the countries in the socialist camp aimed at strengthening peace and also by a further growth of the international role of the peace-loving countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America that have liberated themselves from colonial and semicolonial dependence.

As a result, the balance of forces in the world is shifting more and more in favour of those who advocate termination of the race in nuclear rockets and other arms, liquidation of the "cold war" and peaceful coexistence among all states, regardless of their social systems and ideologies. A situation has developed in which any attempt on the part of an aggressive state to resort to arms in solving disputed international problems, to embark on the path of war, would result in the immediate and total rout of the violator of the peace.

In the minds of the peoples and of many political figures and statesmen, including those of the West, the opinion is gaining ground that given the present level of development of weapons of mass annihilation and of the means of their instantaneous delivery to any point on the globe, war in general can no longer serve as a method of settling international disputes and that the only practically possible road is to build relations among states on the basis of peaceful coexistence.

The fact that contacts among states in the form of meetings and negotiations among the leading statesmen of the various countries of the East and West are assuming increasing importance evokes the deep satisfaction of the participants in the conference. Experience shows that these contacts, the development of which has always been advocated by the Warsaw Pact states, are of great positive importance.

An especially outstanding role in this respect was played by the

historic trip of N. S. Khrushchev, Chairman of the U.S.S.R. Council of Ministers, to the United States and his talks with U.S. President D. Eisenhower. As a result of this trip, the "cold war" ice was broken in relations between the two mightiest powers of the world—the U.S.S.R. and the U.S.A.—and a new stage was opened up in the development of international relations as a whole. As is well known, the talks between the leaders of the Soviet and British governments, held during British Prime Minister H. Macmillan's visit to Moscow, were also of great importance for improving the international atmosphere.

The conference participants voice the hope that Comrade N. S. Khrushchev's forthcoming visit to France and the visit of President G. Gronchi of the Italian Republic to the U.S.S.R. will lead to a further strengthening of mutual understanding among states, above all among the states of Europe, and will help to strengthen peace throughout the world.

It is the common and unanimous wish of the conference participants that U.S. President D. Eisenhower's visit to the Soviet Union this coming summer will lead to the further development of relations between the U.S.S.R. and the U.S.A. along the road of friendship and cooperation; this would be an important guarantee of the inviolability of world peace.

The exchange of visits by statesmen, which has expanded of late, has become a stable factor in bringing the states in the socialist camp closer to the independent peace-loving countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America.

The friendly meetings and talks that the leaders of the Soviet Union, the Polish People's Republic, the Czechoslovak Republic, the German Democratic Republic, the Rumanian People's Republic and other Warsaw Pact states have had with the leaders of such countries as India, Indonesia, Burma, Cambodia, Afghanistan, the United Arab Republic, Ethiopia, Guinea and others have fostered the successful practical development of peaceful coexistence in vast areas of the world. All the participants in the conference declare their resolve to continue strengthening and developing friendship with the peace-loving states of Asia, Africa and Latin America on the basis of equality and mutual respect and in the interest of peace.

The improvement in the international situation is already bearing fruit on many sectors of international relations.

An important agreement was concluded at the end of 1959 among 12 states, among them the U.S.S.R., the U.S.A., Britain and France, on the peaceful use of the Antarctic, in accordance with which this vast

though as yet unpopulated, continent is entirely removed from the sphere of military preparations in any form, including nuclear tests, and is declared a zone of peaceful research and scientific cooperation among states. Another useful step in the right direction was the U.N. Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, the participants of which include seven member states of the Warsaw Pact organization—Albania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Poland, Rumania, the U.S.S.R. and Czechoslovakia.

At the same time the conference participants note that influential forces in the Western countries are continuing their stubborn opposition to the strengthening of peace. These are either circles who fail to see behind the profits they reap from the manufacture of arms the mortal danger threatening them in the event of war, or politicians who are so ice-bound by the "cold war" that they cannot conceive of normal peaceful relations among states.

The NATO states not only continue to maintain swollen armies but are increasing the size of these armies even more, paying special attention to the West German Bundeswehr, which is commanded by former Hitlerite generals and officers. The Bundeswehr is equipped with rockets. The road to the production of these weapons has been opened to the Federal German Republic; moreover, further steps are being taken in the direction of arming the Bundeswehr with atomic weapons. It is a fact, after all, that the NATO Council session in December, 1959, considered plans for a further build-up of the armed forces of the members of this bloc.

Paralleling the growth of West German militarism is an obvious resurgence of militarist forces in Japan and that country's further involvement in military preparations, as evidenced by the recent signing of a new military treaty between Japan and the United States.

The continuation of the arms race by the members of NATO, SEATO and CENTO and their allies can in no way be justified or explained by purposes of defense. It testifies that the adversaries of peaceful coexistence have not yet laid down their arms. This is also borne out by the continuing systematic propaganda of mistrust and hostility among states with different socialist systems on the part of influential political and military figures of the Western powers and a portion of the press.

Those who oppose strengthening the peace do not want negotiations on the settlement of disputed international issues and are trying to prevent agreement from being reached even where the possibility of agreement is already definitely in evidence.

But no attempts made by the "cold war" advocates can alter the fact

that awareness of the need for peaceful coexistence in our times is becoming a determining factor in the development of international relations. The alignment of forces in the international arena ensures the preponderance of the peace-loving states, and the forces of peace far exceed the forces of war. This creates favourable conditions for the attainment of the goals for which the Warsaw Pact states have consistently and invariably fought — a relaxation of international tension and the development of friendly cooperation among all countries.

Naturally the problem of disarmament takes precedence. This is the main question of international life in our times. Whether the possibility of a new war can be completely excluded, a war which in present conditions would lead to the loss of hundreds of millions of people and the destruction of entire states, depends on the solution of this question.

The interests of mankind demand that nuclear rockets, which possess untold destructive force, never be allowed to be brought into play. The surest way to achieve this purpose is the destruction of all types of weapons, all the instruments of war, i.e., the universal and total disarmament of all states. This is precisely why the proposal on such disarmament submitted to the U.N. by the Soviet Union accords with mankind's deepest and most vital interests. This accounts for the great impact which the U.S.S.R.'s proposal is having on the peoples. The unanimity with which the U.N. member states approved the idea of universal and total disarmament at the past 14th session of the General Assembly is significant. The fact that this decision was adopted on a draft resolution drawn up jointly by two such powers as the U.S.S.R. and the U.S.A. is also heartening.

If an agreement among states on disarmament is to become a reality for the first time in history, the first thing that must be done is to proceed from words to practical deeds. This is the most important historical task of the present generation. The Warsaw Pact states, having at this conference exchanged opinions on the prospects for the forthcoming disarmament negotiations, have come to the conclusion that now as never before there exist favorable conditions for fruitful disarmament negotiations among the states of the East and the West.

The disarmament proposal put forward in the U.N. by the Soviet government expresses the common position of the Warsaw Pact states and of all the socialist countries. All the member states of the Warsaw Pact declare their eagerness to take part in a future agreement on universal and total disarmament.

The states represented at the conference feel a sense of satisfaction that a state which is a member of the Warsaw Pact organization—the Soviet Union—should have been the first to take practical steps toward implementation of the above-mentioned U.N. resolution by adopting a decision to reduce its armed forces unilaterally by 1,200,000 men. The numerical strength of the U.S.S.R. Armed Forces will now be below the level that the Western powers themselves suggested for the Soviet Union and the U.S.A. in 1956 and also less than the actual numerical strength of the American armed forces, although the territory and boundaries of the U.S.A. are considerably smaller than those of the U.S.S.R. The reduction of the U.S.S.R. Armed Forces by one-third its present size at a time when the military blocs of the Western powers are continuing the arms race represents an act of goodwill that should induce other states in turn to take steps in the field of disarmament, answering trust with trust.

There are some people in the West who are ready to misinterpret and distort any good deed, any good initiative in international affairs. This is precisely how the opponents of disarmament are now behaving in claiming that the new reduction of the U.S.S.R. Armed Forces is not a step toward disarmament but a step toward rearmament. Only deliberate unscrupulousness in the face of practical deeds in the field of disarmament can prompt such light assertions.

It is clear to everyone that only a state which has no aggressive intentions can undertake to reduce its armed forces unilaterally. In today's conditions big armies and military bases on foreign territories are not needed to defend a country. Would a state harboring aggressive plans really undertake voluntarily to cut its armed forces? Even in reorganizing these armed forces with a view to increasing their fighting power it would clearly not be to its interest to reduce their numerical strength.

The states represented at the conference regard the Soviet Union's decision on a major new reduction of its armed forces, adopted by agreement with the other countries in the socialist camp, as the Warsaw Pact organization's common contribution to the cause of disarmament, as initiative facilitating the negotiation of an agreement on universal and total disarmament between the states of the East and the West. The states united in the Warsaw Pact organization are consistently and steadfastly pursuing a policy aimed at ending the arms race. Since its founding the Warsaw Pact organization has reduced the total numerical strength of the armed forces of the member countries by 2,596,500 men.

and the current unilateral reduction of the army in the U.S.S.R. will bring this figure to 3,796,500.

Can the NATO states boast of similar measures, whose importance for the strengthening of peace is obvious to all? Unfortunately, NATO's measures have so far been along the lines of stepping up military preparations and building up armed forces and armaments.

The Warsaw Pact countries deem it necessary to stress the good example of the German Democratic Republic, which voluntarily reduced its armed forces to 90,000 men and refused to introduce compulsory military service. This stand of the G.D.R., dictated by the desire to do everything it can to promote a relaxation of tension, meets with the full support of all the Warsaw Pact states. Of great importance for the cause of peace and for Germany's future is the fact that the G.D.R. is proving by its policy that if Germany abandons atomic armament and the policy of revanchism, revision of borders and militarism, it can live in peace and prosperity and occupy a worthy place in the family of nations.

The states represented at the conference appeal to the member states of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, particularly to those with the greatest military power, to respond to the unilateral reduction of the U.S.S.R. Armed Forces by cutting their own armed forces, to follow the Soviet Union's example.

The conference participants proceed from the position that the Soviet Union's disarmament proposals should be comprehensively examined in the Committee of Ten, which will begin its work on March 15, 1960. In this connection, they have come to an understanding that the governments of the U.S.S.R., Poland, Czechoslovakia, Rumania and Bulgaria, i.e., members of the Warsaw Pact, which are on the Committee of Ten, will issue to their representatives on this committee a directive to do everything possible to further the fruitful work of the committee and to work for the speediest drafting of a treaty on universal and total disarmament.

The successful and rapid solution of the problem of universal and total disarmament naturally demands efforts not only on the part of the Warsaw Pact states. Such efforts are demanded on the part of the Western powers as well. The conference participants express the hope that the Western powers will also make their contribution to the speediest possible solution of the disarmament problem.

An honest mutual desire for agreement will make it possible to avoid a repetition of the situation in which efforts to reach terms on disarmament have drowned in torrents of speeches and resolutions.

The successful implementation of universal and total disarmament will require an effective system of international control over such disarmament. In present conditions control that is isolated from practical steps in the field of disarmament might be used for purposes directly opposed to disarmament—to look for gaps in the defense systems of other countries and to obtain information making it easier to formulate plans for an attack on a given country. Therefore states which do not have aggressive intentions are naturally concerned that the extent of international control correspond to the actual degree of disarmament of states. In the conditions of universal and total disarmament, however, the states will have no reason to fear one another. All the possibilities will exist for carrying out a check-up or inspection. When disarmament becomes universal and total, control also will be universal and total.

The states represented at the conference consider it necessary to re-emphasize their interest in such a disarmament agreement as will ensure absolute certainty that no party will violate its obligations to implement disarmament or be able to arm secretly.

The Warsaw Pact states note as a favorable fact that for an extended period now not a single atomic or hydrogen bomb has been exploded in any part of the globe. However, although no nuclear explosions are taking place for the time being, an international agreement has not been reached on their prohibition. It is not just an armistice on the front of nuclear tests that the peoples want; they are awaiting the discontinuation of these tests once and for all. Also disquieting are the definite attempts to cancel the practical progress already made on the path to the termination of nuclear testing.

If one of the sides were actually to resume testing, this might entail a kind of chain reaction that would once more turn our planet into an arena of competition in test explosions of nuclear weapons, with all their dangerous consequences. It would also be most difficult to reconcile this with the resolution of the U.N., which unanimously called upon the participants in the Geneva negotiations—the U.S.S.R., the U.S.A. and Great Britain—to refrain from resuming nuclear weapon tests and to speed the conclusion of an international agreement on this matter.

The Soviet government's decision not to conduct nuclear tests in the future either, provided the Western powers do not resume these test explosions, ensures favourable conditions for completing the drafting of a treaty on the discontinuation of nuclear weapons tests. The states represented at the conference express the hope that all the participants

in the Geneva talks will make a supreme effort to secure the cessation in the immediate future of all types of nuclear weapons tests in the air, on land, underground and underwater.

The conference participants have had a thorough exchange of opinions on the German question.

The states represented in the Warsaw Pact organization know by their own experience and have time and again suffered what German aggression inflicts upon peoples. The common interest of all these states in preventing German militarism from ever again jeopardizing the security of its neighbors or world peace impels them to advocate resolutely that a peace treaty be signed with Germany. The elimination of the vestiges of the second world war and the conclusion of a peace treaty are necessary for the peaceful development of all Germany and for assuring the peoples that firm barriers have been erected against the outbreak of a new war in Europe.

While the German Democratic Republic expresses its complete readiness to begin negotiations and conclude a peace treaty at any moment, the other German state — the Federal German Republic — opposes the conclusion of this treaty. An abnormal and unprecedented situation has developed in which a state which is a legal successor of the vanquished side — the aggressor, which surrendered unconditionally 15 years ago — refuses to conclude a peace treaty.

The F.G.R.'s policy is aimed at blocking successful negotiations among the powers and the settlement of unresolved international issues. Attempts are even being made to nullify the results already achieved in the course of negotiations such as the approximation of the viewpoints of the sides on several questions reached by the participants in the Geneva Foreign Ministers' conference in 1959.

Why is the F.G.R. government so persistently impeding the conclusion of a peace treaty? It is doing this primarily because the aim of a peace treaty is to consolidate the situation that has developed as a result of the war, including the German state borders, and the F.G.R. government is against this. One can reach only one conclusion: The F.G.R. government is counting on a convenient moment arriving for altering the borders established in Europe as a result of fascist Germany's defeat. But what this actually implies in the present conditions is a course aimed at unleashing a new war, for none of the states against which the F.G.R. is trying to advance territorial claims will ever relinquish its lands, and the F.G.R. must face this fact. All sober-minded people realize that these borders are inviolable.

The Warsaw Pact states declare with the utmost resolve that these

calculations of the West German government are doomed to failure. As a reliable bulwark of peace, the German Democratic Republic is barring the German militarists' way to new aggressive adventures. The Warsaw Pact states declare their support for the measures adopted by the G.D.R. government with a view to ensuring peace against the revanchist policy of the Adenauer government. The combined might of the socialist camp is a reliable guarantee that neither encroachments on the G.D.R.'s independence, nor a new seizure of Poland's western lands, nor violations of the integrity of Czechoslovakia's borders, will be permitted.

The conference participants express confidence that the plans of the West German revanchists will meet no support even from the F.G.R.'s present allies. It is the profound conviction of the conference participants that the people of the F.G.R., who thirst for peace, likewise cannot and will not back the plans of the West German revanchists. The participants are convinced that the people of West Germany deserve a better lot than to be a tool in the hands of peace violators. The Germans have time and again in the past been elbowed into this by the covetous imperialist policy of their rulers, and the German people have paid for this more than once with heavy sacrifices.

The conclusion of a peace treaty, the renunciation of all ideas of revanchism and border revision and the repudiation of the policy of German remilitarization and atomic armament are the best way to ensure the security of all European peoples and a peaceful future for the German people. The German Democratic Republic has consistently advocated this course. If the Federal German Republic took a stand for it also, this would be a most convincing contribution on its part to strengthening peace and facilitating universal and total disarmament.

The F.G.R. government rejects the proposal for a peace treaty because it does not want the problem of West Berlin to be settled by making it a free city. It has gone so far as to put forth a demand that West Berlin, which is situated inside the G.D.R.'s territory, be annexed to West Germany, but, since this cannot be done, it prefers to preserve the occupation regime there, which makes it possible for West Berlin to be used as a breeding ground of unrest and war danger.

The F.G.R. is the enemy of a peace settlement with Germany because it does not want the problem of German unity to be solved peaceably through negotiations between the two German states and the conclusion of a peace treaty. Contrary to common sense, it refuses to see that for more than ten years now there have existed two German states that have chosen different paths of development. Refusing to

take account of the fundamental interests of the German people, the government of the F.G.R. is rejecting the only possible way of uniting the country through negotiations with the G.D.R. which the G.D.R. government has repeatedly offered it. The F.G.R. government is thereby demonstrating its hostility to the cause of German unity.

The F.G.R. will not hear of a peace treaty because it is afraid that the conclusion of a treaty might do away with the situation that has developed in West Germany, a situation which makes it possible to bring people to trial merely for having the courage to uphold their progressive convictions and take a stand in defense of the national rights of the German people and the interests of peace. All the actions of the F.G.R. government indicate that it is step by step clearing the way to the establishment in West Germany of a regime which is designed to create the impression of being democratic but which is essentially close to the regime which plunged the world into a bloody war and led the German people to an unprecedented national disaster. If conditions were otherwise, could matters really have gone so far as the brazen Nazi and anti-Semitic sorties by pro-fascist elements in West Germany which the world recently witnessed? The government of the F.G.R. was not ashamed to extend its protection to the organizers of these disgraceful acts, while some F.G.R. officials, falling back on a favourite method of Hitlerites, are trying provocatively to shift the blame to the communists.

All this can only serve to intensify the peoples' mistrust of the F.G.R.'s policy. In this situation it becomes essential to wage an even more vigorous struggle for the conclusion of a peace treaty with Germany.

The countries represented at the present conference advocate peaceful cooperation and good-neighbour relations with all states, including the Federal German Republic, and are sparing no efforts to see to it that such cooperation is actually established.

The Warsaw Pact states are striving to reach a peace settlement with Germany along with the other allied and united powers that participated in the war against Germany. This means concluding a peace treaty, which in the present circumstances can be signed by both German states. At the same time, they cannot agree that the solution of these problems be postponed indefinitely; this would only encourage the militarist and revanchist forces of West Germany.

If the efforts directed toward the conclusion of a peace treaty with both German states fail to gain support and the solution of this problem runs up against procrastination, the states represented at this conference

will have no alternative left but to conclude a peace treaty with the German Democratic Republic, along with other states prepared to do so, and, on this basis, to settle the question of West Berlin also.

The states represented at this conference reaffirm their steadfast desire to improve relations between the states of East and West, strengthen trust between them and develop all forms of international cooperation. As before, they favor the unimpeded development of international trade, increased contacts among state and public persons and organizations, and an exchange of cultural, scientific and technical achievements that enriches the peoples of all countries.

The cessation of war propaganda, provocative exhortations and attempts to threaten the use of force would be of enormous importance for normalizing the international situation and removing suspicion in relations among states.

As far as the Warsaw Pact countries are concerned, war propaganda has been banned in them, and they are prepared for their part to take further measures so that the atmosphere of mutual guardedness and aggravated polemics will make way for good-will and trust.

In the conditions of a noticeable relaxation of international tension, the proposal for a conclusion of a nonaggression pact between the two groupings of states — the Warsaw Pact organization and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization — which has not yet been favorably acted upon, assumes even greater importance than in preceding years. Convinced that the urgency of concluding a nonaggression pact between NATO and the Warsaw Pact organization is not only not diminishing but is growing with every year, the conference participants deem it essential to state that this proposal remains in force and that they are ready at any time to sign a nonaggression pact with the NATO states.

The conclusion of bilateral treaties of nonaggression between states belonging to various military groupings and the establishment of zones in Europe free of atomic and rocket weapons could also play a large role in improving the international situation.

The conference participants welcome with great satisfaction the agreement reached by the Soviet Union, the U.S.A., Great Britain and France on the convening of a summit conference in Paris in May of this year. The governments of the Warsaw Pact countries have long sought to have such a conference called, regarding it, as their May 24, 1958, declaration states, as "a major means, under the present conditions, of protecting mankind from a military catastrophe and directing the development of events in the world arena towards the strengthening of peace."

The Warsaw Pact states consider that the forthcoming conference of heads of government should take up such major and urgent issues as the problem of universal and total disarmament, the question of a German peace treaty, including the question of making West Berlin a free city, the prohibition of atomic and hydrogen weapons tests, and relations between East and West. Proceeding from the conviction that if the interests of the parties are given intelligent consideration and if there is a common striving for peace, any disputed international issue, however complex it may seem, can be settled, the conference participants voice the hope that the heads of the governments will succeed in finding the right paths to the successful solution of the above-mentioned problems in the interest of strengthening universal peace and that the forthcoming summit conference will become the turning point in the relations between the states of the East and the West.

At present, on the eve of highly important negotiations between the statesmen of the East and the West, on the eve of the summit conference, it is particularly important, in the opinion of the members of the Warsaw Pact organization, for all states to do everything they can to create an atmosphere conducive to the successful outcome of the coming negotiations. The states represented at this conference declare that they will act precisely in this direction and call upon all other countries to contribute to the success of the negotiations between East and West and refrain from any steps that might complicate these talks.

The governments of the Warsaw Pact states note with satisfaction that their untiring efforts aimed at ending the arms race, eliminating dangerous seats of international conflicts and liquidating the "cold war" are meeting with ever wider support from the peoples of the world and yielding good results. They are unanimously agreed that in our time states do not and cannot have any task greater or more noble than to cooperate in ensuring lasting peace on earth.

DOCUMENT 175

People's Daily (Peking) Editorial on the Declaration of the
Warsaw Treaty Member States
6 February 1960 *

The Political Consultative Committee of the member states of the

* Peking Review, 9 February 1960, pp. 9-11.

Warsaw Treaty held its high-level conference in Moscow on February 4. In addition to the delegates of member states, the representatives of China, the Korean Democratic People's Republic and People's Republic of Mongolia attended the conference in the capacity of observers. Views were exchanged at the conference on some of the most important questions of the current international situation and a Declaration of Member States of the Warsaw Treaty was issued in which they solemnly declared their determination to uphold the cause of peace and further relax the international situation—which is their consistent stand; reiterated their positive views on various major questions relating to world peace; and put forward a set of peace proposals. This Declaration is a fresh contribution to the cause of world peace made by the socialist countries in solidarity and unity. It will undoubtedly be warmly welcomed by the peace-loving peoples and countries throughout the world.

This high-level conference of the Political Consultative Committee of the member states of the Warsaw Treaty was convened under circumstances where, owing to the fact that the forces of the socialist camp, national revolution and peace and democracy have further prevailed over the forces of imperialism and war and that the people of the whole world have waged an unswerving struggle for peace, the U.S. imperialist "position of strength" and "brink of war" policies have suffered serious setbacks, there have appeared some signs of relaxation in the international tension created by U.S. imperialism and the international situation as a whole continues to head in a direction favourable to peace. Over the past year, countries of the socialist camp headed by the Soviet Union have made great and indefatigable efforts for the relaxation of international tension. Comrade Khrushchev's visit to the United States, the Soviet proposal for general and complete disarmament and the recent peaceful measure adopted by the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R.—the further reduction of its armed forces by 1,200,000 men—have exerted a tremendous influence upon the world. Under these circumstances, the East-West summit conference is to be convened in the near future. These are gratifying developments. The development of the international situation has fully borne out the correctness of the Declaration of the Moscow meetings of Communist and Workers' Parties held in November 1957. The Moscow meetings held two years ago were an historic turning point in the international situation. Today, people the world over are fighting with great confidence to consolidate the victory of the cause of peace and further ease the international situation. As is pointed out by the Declaration of the Member States