

80-1-109 05A
IV. 18 Mar 69

Варшавский
господ
17.3.1969
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HUNGARY

It seems that the main content of the communique will be an appraisal of the present international situation with emphasis on the urgency of European security. It also seems that the delegations avoided discussion of other complicated topics.

Our Moscow correspondent Antonin Kostka adds that the Soviet representatives will do nothing that would exacerbate the situation before the May meeting of the communists and workers movement.

[Prague in English to Europe at 1900 GMT on 17 March adds: "It also appears that the meeting dealt more with the international situation than with the structure of the Warsaw Treaty itself, especially in the light of the recent Sino-Soviet border clashes."]

Text of Appeal

Budapest MTI Domestic Service in Hungarian 2050 GMT 17 Mar 69 L

[Appeal by Warsaw Pact member states to countries of Europe]

[Text] Member states of the Warsaw Pact--The Bulgarian People's Republic, the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, the Polish People's Republic, the Hungarian People's Republic, the GDR, the Rumanian Socialist Republic, and the USSR, participants in the session of the Political Consultative Committee--express their wish and the wish of their peoples to live in peace and with good neighborly relations with the other European peoples, as well as their firm determination to cooperate in developing security and an atmosphere of cooperation on our continent. They address an appeal to all European states to unite their efforts for the consolidation of European peace and security.

The present and future of Europe's peoples is inseparable from the protection and consolidation of (peace) on our continent. True security and stable peace can be guaranteed only if the European states actively serve, with all their strength, the relaxation of tension, and if, bearing realities in mind, they set as their aim the solution of ripe international problems and the development of all-round cooperation on an all-European basis.

The road leading to good neighborly relations and to the creation of trust and mutual understanding depends on the will and efforts of the peoples and governments of all European countries. The Europe of our day and age, as it has developed since World War II, has over 30 countries, small and large, with differing social systems, geographical locations, and interests. Because of the will of history, however, they must exist side by side, and no one can alter this fact.

More and more governments, parliaments, parties, and political and social personalities are aware of their responsibility to present and future generations that there should be no new warlike conflict in Europe. However, forces are continuing to work in Europe which do not want to contribute to the development of Europe by solving disputed questions and arranging peaceful agreements, but are instead deploying more divisions and rockets on the basis of new military programs drawn up for decades ahead.

[Moscow TASS International Service in English at 2353 GMT on 17 March renders the preceding sentence as follows: "However, forces also continue operating in Europe which regard as assets of European development not the settlement of disputes and peaceful agreements, but additional divisions and missiles, fresh military programmes, designed for decades ahead."]

Hand in glove with them are those who have refused to draw the proper conclusions from World War II, from the destruction of German militarism and nazism. Their machinations are intensifying tension and creating complications in international relations.

States taking part in the session regard it as their duty to continue doing all they can in the future, too, in the interests of safeguarding Europe against the danger of new warlike conflicts, and, on the basis of the principles of peaceful coexistence, to providing wide scope for developing cooperation among all European countries regardless of social systems. However complex yet unsettled problems may be, their solution can be achieved only by peaceful means, through negotiations, and not by the application or threat of force. Proceeding from an analysis of the European situation, Warsaw Pact member states believe that there is a realistic possibility for creating European security through exerting joint efforts and bearing in mind the interests of all European states and peoples.

It was almost 3 years ago that the Warsaw Pact member states proposed in Bucharest an all-European conference to discuss questions of European security and peaceful cooperation. Personal contacts that have taken place since then prove that not a single European government opposes the idea of an all-European conference and that realistic possibilities exist for holding such a conference. All of the European states have not met since World War II, even though there is a series of questions which they should examine at the negotiating table.

If we proceed from the interests of consolidating peace, there can be no weighty reason for procrastination in the matter of convening an all-European conference. Such a conference would correspond to the interests of all European states. It would provide an opportunity to jointly find ways and means leading to liquidation of the division of Europe according to military groupings and to peaceful cooperation among European states and peoples.

However, there are forces in the world striving to maintain the division of our continent by pursuing a policy of intensifying tension. These forces reject the development of peaceful cooperation between states and peoples and oppose such a conference and other measures aimed at consolidating European security. It is the conviction of states taking part in the present conference that the development of all-European cooperation has been and remains the only realistic alternative to the dangerous military confrontation, arms race, and strife which aggressive forces striving to annul the results of World War II and to alter the map of Europe are trying to foist upon Europe.

The Warsaw Pact member states reaffirm their proposals directed against division of the world into military blocs, the arms race, and threats to people's peace and security. They also reaffirm other measures embodied in the 1967 Bucharest declaration on the strengthening of European security and peace.

[Moscow TASS English renders the preceding passage as follows: "The Warsaw Treaty member countries reaffirm their proposals spearheaded against the division of the world into military blocs, the arms race, and the threats emanating from this for the cause of peace and security of the peoples, and the other steps and provisions, contained in the declaration on the strengthening of peace and security in Europe, adopted in Bucharest in 1966."]

The prevention of fresh military conflicts through the strengthening of economic, political, and cultural relations among states and on the basis of respect for the equality, independence, and sovereignty of countries is a question of vital importance for the European peoples. A firm European security system would create the objective conditions and requisites for great projects vital to the well-being of the population of the entire continent through the utilization of power generation, transport, waterways, and airspace and in the sphere of health. It is precisely this which is common and must become the basis of European cooperation.

The inviolability of existing borders in Europe, including the Oder-Neisse border and the frontier between the GDR and the German Federal Republic, is a fundamental requisite for Europe's security, as is recognition of the existence of the GDR and the German Federal Republic. The German Federal Republic should renounce its claims to representing all German people and to possessing atomic weapons in whatever form and declare that West Berlin has a special status and does not belong to West Germany.

[Moscow TASS English renders the preceding passage as follows: "One of the main pre-conditions of safeguarding European security is the inviolability of the frontiers existing in Europe, including the frontiers on the Oder and Neisse and also the frontiers between the German Democratic Republic and the Federal Republic of Germany, recognition of the existence of the GDR and the FRG, renunciation by the Federal Republic of Germany of its claims to represent the entire German people, renunciation of the possession of nuclear weapons in any shape. West Berlin has a special status and does not belong to West Germany.]

A practical step toward strengthening European security would be an early meeting of officials of all interested European states at which they could jointly fix the procedure for convening the all-European conference and define questions to be placed on its agenda. At the same time we are ready to examine any other proposal concerning the method of preparing and calling such a conference.

States taking part in the Political Consultative Committee session address this appeal to the countries of Europe: Cooperate in convening an all-European conference and in creating conditions required for its success and for fulfillment of the hopes people have pinned on it. In the interests of putting this important initiative into effect, which would be an historic event in the life of the continent, those taking part in the session address a solemn appeal to all European states to strengthen the atmosphere of trust and thus to refrain from any action which would poison the atmosphere of relations between states. They appeal to the states of Europe to proceed from general statements about peace to concrete actions and measures serving a relaxation of tension, disarmament, cooperation among people, and peace. They appeal to all European governments to exert joint efforts to make Europe a continent of fruitful cooperation between nations and of equal rights and a factor in the stability, peace, and mutual understanding of the world at large.

Budapest, 17 March 1969.

Signed: On Behalf of the Bulgarian People's Republic, Todor Zhivkov, first secretary of the Bulgarian Communist Party Central Committee and Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Bulgarian People's Republic.

On behalf of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, Alexander Dubcek, first secretary of the Czechoslovak Communist Party Central Committee; Ludvik Svoboda, president of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic; and Oldrich Cernik, chairman of the Federal Government of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic.

On behalf of the Polish People's Republic, Wladyslaw Gomulka, first secretary of the PZPR Central Committee, and Jozef Cyrankiewicz, chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Polish People's Republic.

On behalf of the Hungarian People's Republic, Janos Kadar, first secretary of the MSZMP Central Committee, and Jeno Fock, chairman of the Hungarian Revolutionary Worker-Peasant Government.

On behalf of the GDR, Walter Ulbricht, first secretary of the SED Central Committee and chairman of the GDR State Council, and Willi Stoph, chairman of the GDR Council of Ministers.

On behalf of the Rumanian Socialist Republic, Nicolae Ceausescu, secretary general of the Rumanian Communist Party Central Committee and chairman of the State Council of the Rumanian Socialist Republic, and Ion Gheorghe Maurer, chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Rumanian Socialist Republic.

On behalf of the USSR, L.I. Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and A.N. Kosygin, Chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers.

[In its treatment of the signers of the appeal, Moscow TASS English merely lists the names of the signers and omits their titles.]

Text of Communique

Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0200 GMT 18 Mar 69 L

[Communique of the meeting of the Political Consultative Committee of the countries of the Warsaw Pact]

[Text] A meeting of the Political Consultative Committee of member countries of the Warsaw Pact of friendship, cooperation, and mutual aid was held in Budapest on 17 March 1969.

The following took part in the meeting:

From the People's Republic of Bulgaria: Todor Zhivkov, first secretary of the Bulgarian Communist Party Central Committee and chairman of the Council of Ministers of the People's Republic of Bulgaria, head of the delegation; Zhivko Zhivkov, first deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers; Ivan Bashev, minister of foreign affairs; Atanas Semerdzhiyev, first deputy minister of national defense; Vasil Bogdanov, ambassador of the People's Republic of Bulgaria in the Hungarian People's Republic.

From the Hungarian People's Republic: Janos Kadar, first secretary of the Central Committee of the Hungarian Socialist Workers Party, head of the delegation; Jeno Fock, chairman of the Hungarian Revolutionary Workers and Peasants Government; Zoltan Komocsin, member of the Politburo of the Central Committee of the Hungarian Socialist Workers Party and secretary of the Central Committee; Col Gen Lajos Czinege, minister of defense; Frigyes Puj, first deputy minister of foreign affairs.

From the German Democratic Republic: Walter Ulbricht, first secretary of the SED Central Committee and Chairman of the State Council of the GDR, head of the delegation; Willi Stoph, chairman of the GDR Council of Ministers; Erich Honecker, member of the Politburo of the SED Central Committee and secretary of the Central Committee; Hermann Axen, candidate member of the Politburo of the SED Central Committee and secretary of the Central Committee; Otto Winzer, minister of foreign affairs; Col Gen Heinz Kessler, deputy minister of national defense.

From the Polish People's Republic: Wladyslaw Gomulka, first secretary of the PZPR Central Committee, head of the delegation; Josef Cyrankiewicz, chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Polish People's Republic; Zenon Kliszko, member of the Politburo of the PZPR Central Committee and secretary of the Central Committee; Stefan Jedrychowski, minister of foreign affairs; Gen Wojciech Jaruzelski, minister of national defense; Adam Kruczkowski, deputy minister of foreign affairs; Maj Gen Boleslaw Goch, deputy minister of national defense and chief of General Staff.

From the Socialist Republic of Rumania: Nicolae Ceausescu, secretary general of the Central Committee of the Rumanian Communist Party and chairman of the State Council of the Socialist Republic of Rumania, head of the delegation; Ion Gheorghe Maurer, chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Socialist Republic of Rumania; Corneliu Manescu, minister of foreign affairs; Col Gen Ion Ionita, minister of the armed forces.

From the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics: Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, head of the delegation; Kosygin, chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers; Katushev, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee; Gromyko, minister of foreign affairs; Marshal of the Soviet Union Grechko, minister of defense; Rusakov, head of department of the CPSU Central Committee;

From the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic: Alexander Dubcek, first secretary of the Central Committee of the Czechoslovak Communist Party, head of the delegation; Ludvik Svoboda, president of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic (CSSR); Oldrich Cernik, chairman of the CSSR Federal Government; Jan Marko, minister of foreign affairs; Col Gen Martin Dzur, minister of national defense.

The commander in chief of the united armed forces of the Warsaw Pact member countries, Marshal of the Soviet Union Yakubovskiy, also took part.

The Political Consultative Committee heard a report, delivered by the supreme commander in chief of the joint armed forces on steps, worked out by the ministers of defense with the approval of the respective governments. The states, participants in the meeting, thoroughly considered and unanimously endorsed the statute on the committee of defense ministers of the Warsaw Pact member countries, the new statute on the joint armed forces and the joint command and other documents, designed to further improve the structure and bodies of administration of the defense organization of the Warsaw Pact.

The supreme commander in chief of the joint armed forces has been instructed to insure the implementation of the adopted decisions in conformity with established procedure.

The participants in the meeting expressed firm confidence that the approved steps would promote still further the strengthening of the defense potential of the socialist countries, parties to the Warsaw Pact, in the interests of the cause of socialism, the cause of peace and security in Europe and throughout the world.

Continuing their efforts, aimed at relaxation of tension and consolidation of peace, the Warsaw Pact member countries unanimously adopted an address to all European countries, underscoring preparation for and holding of a general European conference on questions of security and cooperation in Europe.

The working of the Political Consultative Committee was held in a spirit of fraternal friendship and comradely cooperation.

Postsession Dinner

Budapest MTI Domestic Service in Hungarian 2125 GMT 17 Mar 69 L

[Text] Budapest, 17 Mar--The Political Consultative Committee session of the Warsaw Pact member states ended in Budapest on Monday.

The MSZMP Central Committee and the Revolutionary Worker-Peasant Government gave a gala dinner in the House of Parliament tonight in honor of the foreign delegations attending the session.

At the gala dinner, which took place in a cordial and friendly atmosphere, MSZMP Central Committee First Secretary Janos Kadar gave a toast.

Delegation Departures

Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 0900 GMT 18 Mar 69 L

[Text] Delegations have begun to leave Budapest. We now give you details of these from correspondents' recordings:

The Rumanian delegation which had taken part in the meeting of the Warsaw Pact Political Consultative Committee left at 2000. At Ferihegy airport, the main buildings of which are hung with the flags of the Warsaw Pact countries and red banners of proletarian internationalism, the Rumanian delegation arrived in the company of Janos Kadar, Jeno Fock, Zoltan Komocsin, and several members of the Central Committee, the government, the Ministry of Defense, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

After a brief farewell, Nicolae Ceausescu, Secretary general of the Rumanian Communist Party, Ion George Maurer, chairman of the Council of Ministers, Foreign Minister Manescu, and Minister of the Armed Forces Ionescu boarded their Il-18 special aircraft and left for Bucharest.

The Soviet delegation, led by Leonid Brezhnev, left Budapest a few minutes after 2100 from the western railway station. CPSU General Secretary Brezhnev and Soviet head of government Kosygin, as well as the other members of the delegation, Katushev, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and Grechko, minister of defense, talked for a few minutes--before leaving on the special train--with the leaders of Hungarian political life. Our high-ranking Soviet guests were accompanied to the station by Janos Kadar, Jeno Fock, Bela Blasko, Zoltan Komocsin, Lajos Czinegi, minister of defense, and Frigyes Puhos, first deputy minister of foreign affairs.

Czechoslovak Delegation

Prague Domestic Service in Czech 1400 GMT 18 Mar 69 L

[Text] The Czechoslovak delegation to the Budapest meeting of the Warsaw Pact Political Consultative Committee flew back to Prague this morning. The delegation headed by Alexander Dubcek, was seen off at Budapest airport by Janos Kadar, Jeno Fock, and other leading Hungarian personalities.