

Translation from the [translation] booth

**First Secretary of the CC Bulgarian Communist Party and Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the PRB, Cde. Todor Zhivkov**

We are pleased that we can discuss the issues on today's conference agenda. At the Moscow meeting conducted in August, we were all of the opinion that we had achieved many successes in our policy with regard to the FRG and all the issues connected with the results of World War II – most of all, thanks to the unity that we displayed in resolving our problems.

We congratulate the Soviet comrades on the negotiations they conducted with the FRG and the signing of the treaty between the Soviet Union and the FRG. Today, we can also congratulate the Polish comrades who made great efforts in preparing the treaty between the People's Republic of Poland and the FRG.

We also want to state here today that we should also adopt in the future a unified stance in resolving the complicated issue connected with the final normalization of relations with the FRG and the preparation of the conference on European security.

We think that the main issue is to ratify the treaty with the FRG. If ratification is achieved, then we should take all steps in this direction, and we will achieve a great success.

It was correctly stated that this would be a great success not only for the Warsaw Pact countries, but also for the forces of peace in Europe and in the world. It will also have a positive significance in terms of strengthening the position of the Brandt-Scheel government and for the continuation of the so-called Ostpolitik.

For this reason, we should also agree on our steps in the future because there is no effective method for the realization of Ostpolitik other than the ratification of these treaties. The treaties' ratification is the main undertaking that can contribute to the resolution of other issues connected to the German question.

Of course, ratification alone cannot solve all problems. This pertains, for example, to the negotiations between the FRG and the ČSSR, to the issue of the Munich Agreement. We fully agree with Comrade Husak's statement regarding eventual, future negotiations between Czechoslovakia and the FRG. We will also support the position of the Czechoslovak comrades on these matters in the future.

At the same time, we should never forget that the main question regarding Germany after World War II is recognition of the GDR as a sovereign nation from the viewpoint of international law.

All of the steps that we have taken cannot lead to the GDR's isolation. If we would allow this to happen, it could turn out that we are undermining what we have achieved with our efforts both in Europe and with regard to world peace.

With regard to this matter, we think that the issue of our countries' adoption of diplomatic relations with the FRG should be resolved together with the issue of the GDR's recognition. We should consider how this matter can be resolved in practice. We think, however, that no matter what, we cannot permit the German Democratic Republic's isolation and that recognition of the GDR is the most important issue.

All our steps should contribute to the further strengthening of the GDR's position internationally and as a member-state of the Warsaw Treaty.

We agree with the documents that have been presented to us for approval. We have no substantive comments regarding these documents.

*[Translation from the Polish by Margaret (Małgorzata) K. Gnoinska]*