

GENERAL STAFF OF THE
CZECHOSLOVAK PEOPLE'S ARMY
Operations Directorate

Copy No. 1
Number of pages: 6

Annex No 1

SPEAKING NOTES

Of the Supreme Commander of the Unified Armed Forces at the
Meeting of the Political Consultative Committee
Regarding the Fulfillment of the Resolutions Adopted by the Political Consultative
Committee for Improvements in the Warsaw Treaty's Military Organization
Between 1969 and 1974, Along with the Status and
Development of the Unified Armed Forces

At the beginning, the document mentions that both the Unified Command and the national commands have focused their efforts on the principal tasks for developing the forces. The result has been that all allied armies have basically fulfilled the five-year plans for army and navy development in terms of the units assigned to the Unified Armed Forces for the period 1971 – 1975. The armies and navies have made further qualitative progress, and their combat capabilities and combat readiness have improved substantially. Action has begun to prepare five-year plans for army and navy development for the period 1981 -1985.

The analysis of the status and trends of development in NATO's armed forces, the document states, plays an important role in the processes and activities of the joint command bodies. It presents information indicating that NATO's forces and plans for their development have undergone a qualitative improvement in the last five years. The document focuses on NATO's strategic exercises, which are based on a single operational plan, but take place in several theaters. Both the Unified Command and the national commands have been closely monitoring the posture and trends of development in NATO's armed forces and have been taking steps to further improve the combat capabilities and combat readiness of the Unified Armed Forces.

The document also describes the actions taken by the Unified Command and the national commands to improve the combat and mobilization readiness of the armies and navies. It concludes that the combat capabilities of the Unified Armed Forces have

improved; the firepower and strike capabilities of the ground forces have been increased; and the combat capabilities of the air forces and navies have grown. All in all, the combat and mobilization readiness of the Unified Armed Forces meets present requirements and guarantees the fulfillment of the tasks necessary to repel any aggression. Yet, there are still many problems requiring further improvements – in particular, reducing the time necessary for bringing missile and air force units to a state of combat readiness; increasing the survivability of air force and air defense divisions and lower-level units, and improving the system of command.

Regarding improvements in the provisioning of the armies and navies: The armies and navies have received many new types of modern vehicles and weapon systems, and other equipment has been upgraded as well. These actions have resulted in improved firepower, strike capabilities and maneuverability for the ground forces; improved capabilities among the air defense units; enhanced combat capabilities for the navies and air forces, and substantially improved capabilities for the Unified Armed Forces as a whole.

In the next five years, the process of improving the armies' and navies' equipment will continue. It will result in the replacement of old types of weapons and vehicles with new ones and an upgrade for considerable numbers of tanks, artillery systems, and tactical SAM systems.

The document also lists weaknesses in the equipping of the Unified Armed Forces – namely, the ongoing presence of large numbers of old tanks, aircraft, and other equipment. It emphasizes that despite the aforementioned actions, some will still be in service until the end of 1980.

The Unified Command and the national commands have been looking for ways to improve the situation, both during the current five-year plan and in preparation for the five-year plan for 1981-1985. The document poses the question of whether it would be advisable to have special units equipped with the latest systems and equipment in every army of the Warsaw Treaty. These units would serve to train personnel in the use of new equipment, to transmit lessons learned, and to share experiences regarding the control, combat uses, and exploitation of new equipment.

Measures to further standardize and unify the equipment of the armies and navies, the document emphasizes, will necessarily play a key role. Standardization and unification are crucial. The next meeting of the Committee of the Ministers of Defense will discuss these issues and adopt practical decisions.

The document also clarifies how the combat capabilities and reliability of the Joint Air Defense System will be improved in order to protect the airspace of the Warsaw Treaty countries. The next five-year period will see a further reinforcement of the air defense system. At the same time, there are still many problems, it stresses, in the air defense system that demand a solution; most of them arise from the fact that the useful life of many SAM launchers and missiles will expire between 1980 and 1985. Similarly, we will need to increase the number of new MiG-23 fighters in our inventories and take steps to equip the nodal air defense command centers and the command posts of the air defense divisions with automated command systems. The Unified Command is presently examining these issues and preparing proposals for joint discussion with the ministers of defense.

The document further explains the work being done to improve the command systems of the armies and navies – in particular, streamlining the organization of the command bodies and the signal troops, constructing hardened command centers, developing battlefield communication networks and improving their resistance to jamming, and installing automated command systems. Problems still remain: equipping operational-level command centers with armored command and staff vehicles, developing automated command systems for the ground forces and navies, and establishing a trunk battlefield communications network.

The document clarifies issues regarding logistical support for the armed forces and the ongoing operational preparations on the member-states' territories, including steps being taken to further improve the situation.

The document clarifies issues regarding the operational and combat training of the Unified Armed Forces. It voices appreciation for the fact that the national commands are dealing with the principal tasks in this area, in keeping with the resolution adopted by the Political Consultative Committee at its meeting in March 1969. The national commands have been successfully training commanders, staffs, divisions and lower-level units from all branches of service for combat operations in today's complex battlefield environment.

The Unified Command's attention has been focused on achieving a single, joint opinion regarding operational and tactical techniques; improving the organization and implementation of joint combat operations by the armies and divisions of the Warsaw Treaty's member-states; and sharing experience and implementing modern methods of troop training and education. On the basis of approved plans, around 40 major exercises and events have taken place each year, in which both the staffs and units of the allied

armies have participated. These major exercises have been prepared by the ministers of defense, the Unified Command, the national General (Main) Staffs, and leading representatives from the various services of the fraternal armed forces; this guarantees that the exercises are highly effective. Special attention, the document emphasized, is being devoted to joint exercises. In addition, it discusses the largest exercises and plans for joint activities on the territories of the member-states for the year 1977.

The document advocates the idea of organizing large command and staff exercises over the next few years, in which the staffs of all the services of several allied armies, along with their operational echelons, would participate.

The document further explains the activities of the Unified Command and the national commands in other areas that are contributing to the expansion and deepening of cooperation among the allied armies. These include the development of military theory; the coordination of scientific and research work, designs, and test projects; the organization of contacts among the political bodies of the allied armies, their military-historical institutes, publishing houses, editorial boards, military dailies and magazines, training of personnel, etc. It emphasizes that the Unified Command and the national commands will be stepping up their efforts to further strengthen camaraderie-in-arms as an important factor affecting national defense capabilities.

The document outlines the work being done by the Warsaw Treaty's military bodies – specifically, the Committee of the Ministers of Defense, the Unified Command, the Military Council, the Staff, and the Committee on Technology – to accomplish essential tasks related to the expansion and development of the Unified Armed Forces. Their successes have confirmed anew the farsightedness of the resolution adopted by the Political Consultative Committee at its meeting in March 1969. The document notes that, over the past few years, the activities of the Staff and the Committee on Technology have taken a new direction, and their areas of responsibility have expanded considerably. This situation has already necessitated some changes in their organizational structure. However, these have not been adequate, even now. The Staff and the Committee on Technology have been expanding their responsibilities in terms of unification, standardization, and civil defense. We must proceed by optimizing the responsibility and organizational structure of the command bodies of the Unified Armed Forces in other areas as well, in response to newly-emerging tasks. We can see that further improvements in the Unified Armed Forces' system of command are necessary in order to prepare it better for actual wartime needs and to increase its capabilities for direct command. It would perhaps be advisable in this regard to ask the Committee of the Ministers of Defense to examine and assess the proposals of the Supreme Commander of the Unified

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Funding for the translation and annotation of this document was provided by the United States National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) through Collaborative Research Grant Project RZ-50701-07,

“The Cold War and Human Security: Translations for the Parallel History Project on NATO and the Warsaw Pact,”
Douglas Selvage, Principal Investigator.

Armed Forces regarding improvements in the organizational structure and an increase in the number of bodies comprising the Unified Command.

In the end, the document states that both the Unified Command and the national commands will improve and enhance the powers of the Warsaw Treaty's military bodies by focusing on the following essential tasks:

(1) Closely monitoring NATO's preparations for war and taking steps to further increase the combat capabilities and quality of the Unified Armed Forces;

Striving for complete fulfillment of all measures foreseen in the Army and Navy Development Protocols for 1976-1980, with particular focus on further improving combat and mobilization readiness, the system of command, and the operational and combat training of troops and naval personnel;

Improving the provisioning of the armies and navies by introducing new, state-of-the-art weapons; replacing or upgrading older equipment, especially tanks and aircraft; intensifying work to standardize and unify weapons systems and equipment as a crucial prerequisite for improving military and naval combat readiness;

(2) Taking steps to strengthen the Joint Air Defense System, including the planned rearmament of the air defense missile units, the needed increase in the fleet of new MiG-23 fighters, and the development of a joint automated air defense command system;

(3) Enhancing the system of logistical support for the allied armies by increasing stocks and materiel and improving their dispersal and concealment; continuing concerted measures to prepare the territories of the allied states for operations;

(4) Expanding and deepening the camaraderie-in-arms of the fraternal armies, improving the organizational structure and activities of the Unified Command organs, deepening their relations with the national military organs, and accordingly improving the standard of command and control within the Unified Armed Forces.

The document asserts that the implementation of the aforementioned steps will help further improve the combat capabilities of the Unified Armed Forces.

[Translation by Jiří Mareš]