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**Political Report by Colonel-General Gyula Reményi, Head of the Operational Group,  
on the Transformation of the Military Structure of the Warsaw Treaty, 31 January  
1970**

The Military Council of the Unified Armed Forces held its first session in Moscow on December 9–10, 1969, chaired by Marshall Yakubovsky, supreme commander of the Unified Armed Forces. Participating in the session were the members of the Military Council of the Unified Armed Forces, and as guests, the representatives delegated by the commanders-in-chief to the armies of the individual member-states.

The Military Council discussed extremely important current issues. The agenda included such subjects as:

- 1) Evaluation of the military readiness of the Unified Armed Forces, the operational and combat training in 1969, and the tasks for 1970.
- 2) Passing the Regulations on the service of the officers, generals and admirals of the armies of the member-states of the Warsaw Treaty appointed to the Unified Armed Forces Staff and Technical Corps.
- 3) Briefing on the formation of the Staff and Technical Corps.
- 4) The plan of the Military Council for 1970.

The report on the first item on the agenda was given by Field Marshal Shtemenko, chief-of-staff of the Unified Armed Forces.

Both the report and the contributions of the Military Council members showed clearly that the Unified Armed Forces of the Warsaw Treaty achieved new successes in 1969 in increasing military readiness and in operational and combat training. The readiness of leading bodies improved. The joint operational and combat training programs contributed to further improving the cooperation between the headquarters and staff of allied armies, and reinforcing comradeship in arms and the growing international sense of duty.

The tasks of schedule-quality development of military forces were consistently solved in the allied armies.

This was the first occasion at such a plenum where such thorough, deeply analytical talks took place about the execution of tasks and about tasks for the following year. The Military Council proposed approving and issuing Directive No. 0070 of the Supreme Commander and the 1970 plan for joint programs.

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I myself also took part in preparing for the work of the session and I had the honor to be a member of the Hungarian delegation. So I can also relate my personal experiences. I can say without exaggeration that all of us returned home with very good impressions. Everything came up to the maximum expectations of the comrade chief-of-staff and the participants of the session, because we could see that the Unified Armed Forces of the Warsaw Treaty possesses a body whose members serve to reinforce the whole alliance through more coordinated work, according to a principle of equal rights and in line with national decision-making rights in accordance with their sphere of authority.

This is convincingly shown by the agenda of the first session, which featured such important items of concern to the alliance as a whole and to its member-states as the following:

- 1) "The state and plans of the NATO aggressive bloc."
- 2) "The state and direction of further development of the ground troops and front air force of the Unified Armed Forces of the member-states of the Warsaw Treaty."
- 3) "As at the session of the Military Council, there was discussion of the formation and operation of the Unified Armed Forces Staff and Technical Corps."
- 4) The order of the 1970 sessions of the ministers of defense and the main questions to be discussed at them.

As the comrades will see, the first and second agenda items especially provide the key to development of the whole structure and of individual national armies as well.

The first report on the session agenda was delivered by Comrade Grechko. All the ministers spoke on the report and discussed separately the resolution.

The Committee of Ministers of Defense unanimously found and emphasized that the goals of the imperialists had still not changed in recent times, but they were forced to change their methods directed at achieving them. A significant role in this was played by the united action of the member-states of the Warsaw Treaty and the strength of the Unified Armed Forces. The [imperialists] have again been forced to the negotiating table because they have no real chances of achieving their political objectives by war. Nonetheless, the imperialists have not abandoned the prospect of achieving their political goals and consider war to be the chief method of attaining them. The main vehicle for pursuing their ambition is NATO.

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The Committee of Ministers of Defense unanimously found that the qualitative development of the ground troops should be set as a main goal for the period between 1971 and 1975. This goal should be reached by systematizing modern technical facilities, and perfecting mobilization and structures, while increasing mobility, firepower and strike power of the troops, and protection and cover of forces and facilities, and thereby perfecting further (*sic*) the standard of military readiness.

The most appropriate way to attain the goals mentioned and the uniform concept—further unification and standardization of weapon systems and the military-technical equipment and structures. This can all be attained specifically with the ground troops as follows:

- Firepower must be increased by incorporating more up-to-date operational-*cum*-tactical missiles, and increasing the quantity and improving the quality of artillery.
- Strike power must be increased by exchanging the out-dated T-34 tanks for more modern types.
- Mobility must be increased by general incorporation of APCs in the motorized rifle troops.
- Cover must be increased by commissioning various anti-aircraft missiles and other modern equipment for air defense.

Of course, technical development in this direction—in view of the constraints on material inputs by member-states and the concurrent results in levels of technology and production—can be maximized only if cooperation between research and production occurs at a notably higher level than hitherto. The first relevant steps have been taken in a promising way by the Technical Corps formed.

In the field of perfecting structures—taking as a starting point the structure and capabilities of NATO divisions and the requirement that we ensure superiority over them, and the need for maximum organizational unity of the troops of the Warsaw Treaty—the task in the following planning period is to form the requisite standard divisional structure.

Of course, in forming standard divisions, there has to be differentiation according to the situation of member-states, the expected assignments of their armies, and the characteristics of the theater of war.

The technical development and perfection of structures serve to increase of military readiness and capability. Likewise to increase military readiness, the Committee of Ministers of Defense considers it necessary to implement special regulations differentiating according to the characteristics of specific countries and armies. Thus in some armies, mobilization times need to be reduced, while in others, the conditions for entering combat promptly should be ensured by other regulations. In our army, as is well known, we want to achieve [improved] military readiness without reducing "M" times, by perfecting the execution of the issued instructions.

Taking the requirement of modern combat as its starting point, the Committee of Ministers of Defense underlined the importance of front air force and troop aircraft and proposed that member-states pay great attention to development and creation of these, as far as their scope allowed.

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*[Archives: War History Archive, HPA Headquarters First Group Directorate 1969 Unit 68/14/182 pp. 10-18]*