

EMBASSY OF THE
POLISH PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC
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COMMUNIQUE OF THE MEETING OF
THE COMMITTEE OF MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
OF THE STATES - PARTIES TO THE WARSAW TREATY

1. The Committee of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the States - parties to the Warsaw Treaty on Friendship, Cooperation and Mutual Assistance met for its another meeting on October 26-27, in Warsaw. The Meeting was attended by:
 - Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of Bulgaria, Iwan Ganew,
 - Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, Jaromir Johanes,
 - Minister of Foreign Affairs of the German Democratic Republic, Oskar Fischer,
 - Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Polish People's Republic, Krzysztof Skubiszewski,
 - Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Republic of Romania, Ioan Totu,
 - Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Hungary, Gyula Horn,
 - Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Eduard Shevardnadze.

Also present were: Minister at the Ministry for Foreign Economic Relations of the People's Republic of Bulgaria, Khristo Khristov, Minister of Foreign Trade of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, Josef Sterba, Minister of Foreign Trade of the German Democratic Republic, Gerhard Beil, Minister for Foreign Economic Relations of the Polish People's Republic, Marcin Świącicki, Secretary of State at the Ministry of Foreign Trade and International Economic Relations of the Socialist Republic of Romania, Cornel Pinzaru, Vice-Minister of Trade of the Republic of Hungary, Piroska Apro, First Deputy Minister for Foreign Economic Contacts of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Alexander Kachanov.

2. The Ministers reviewed the conditions and trends in the development of international relations. They noted the validity of the assessments contained in the documents of the Session of the Political Consultative Committee of the States - parties to the Warsaw Treaty on July 7-8, 1989 in Bucharest, both regarding the positive trends in the international situation and the phenomena determining its complex and contradictory character in many respects. In this connection, the Ministers reiterated the determination of their respective states to further work toward disarmament, strengthening peace, security and confidence, democratization of international relations, and the development of broad international cooperation.
3. The participants in the Meeting agreed that, much as the situation is undefined, conditions are ripening in Europe to achieve a radical breakthrough in the relations between the countries of the Continent, gradually overcome its divisions, and definitively eliminate the relicts of the "cold war". One of the essential prerequisites for the building of a secure, peaceful and indivisible Europe, is to respect the right of each Nation to independently decide about its fate, freely choose the roads of its social, political and economic development, with no external interference. Fundamental importance for the construction of the "Common European House" with the diversity of social and constitutional systems of the countries, rests with the unconditional respect for the inviolability of the existing frontiers, territorial integrity, independence and sovereignty of states, respect for the commonly accepted principles and standards of international law, the provisions of the CSCE final Act as well as other documents adopted within the framework of the Helsinki process. Any attempt to destabilize the situation, to question the post-war borders and resume debate of this issue, harm not only the confidence - building process, but also stability in Europe. It is imperative to fully respect the prerogatives of sovereign states, including the issue of citizenship, in keeping with obligations stemming from the international law. The danger of stepped up neonazism and revanchism in some West European states. The Ministers shared the view that the settlement of disputed bilateral issues is not facilitated by the involvement of the military-political alliances.

The way to resolve such problems is solely through constructive dialogue, on an equal footing, between the states concerned.

4. The participants in the Meeting pointed out the importance of the progress in the Helsinki process in all fields for the establishment of solid foundations of the security and closer cooperation between all states. They reaffirmed that determination to facilitate in every way the implementation of the decisions reached at the Vienna Meeting and generally, within the framework of the CSCE process. The Ministers noted with satisfaction the positive development of the Vienna negotiations involving the 23 Countries of the Warsaw Treaty and NATO concerning conventional armed forces in Europe. They expressed the resolve to spare no efforts for the first agreement on significant armed forces and conventional arms reductions to be achieved as early as next year. The Agreement would be signed before the end of 1990 at a conference of the Heads of State or Government from the States of Europe, The United States and Canada. The Conference would be preceded by a meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs. The reductions of the armed forces and conventional armaments would be accomplished over 2-3 years. It would make it possible to markedly lower the levels of armaments and military spending, unlock huge material and human reserves to support social and economic development, and strengthen stability and security in the Continent.

The participants in the Meeting came out in favour in the adoption by the negotiators in the talks of the 35 CSCE Countries, concerning confidence and security - building measures, of a set of new measures encompassing all kinds of military activity, including the activity of the air and naval forces. Of significant importance would be the establishment of a centre for the reduction of the danger of a war and prevention of surprise attack in Europe. The Ministers expressed the hope that the Seminar of the 35 CSCE Countries on military doctrine will serve confidence building in Europe. The participants in the Meeting called for an urgent start of separate negotiations on short-range nuclear forces in Europe.

5. The Allied States consider disarmament as the key question of our time. They declare their dedication to the cause of the elimination of nuclear and chemical weapons. The Ministers stressed the importance of the implementation of the Soviet - American Treaty on the elimination of medium and shorter - range missiles and called for an earliest possible conclusion by the USSR and the US of the treaty on the 50% reductions of their respective strategic armaments. The Meeting noted the need to observe the ABM Treaty in the form in which it was signed in 1972.

The participants in the Meeting pointed out to the need for a complete halt to any nuclear arms testing. They called for reciprocal renunciation of modernizing such weapons.

The Ministers called for an earliest possible conclusion of the international convention on the complete ban and liquidation of chemical weapons, and called on the participants in the Geneva negotiations to settle the outstanding issues in 1990. They stressed the importance of greater efficiency of the Geneva Disarmament Conference in general. The participants in the Meeting favoured the starting of negotiations on naval forces, involving all the states concerned, first and foremost those with the largest naval arsenals. The Ministers exchanged views on the proposal to establish the regime of the "open skies".

The participants in the Meeting reviewed issues relating to the conversion of arms production and expressed the preparedness to hold international consultation on the issue.

The Ministers reaffirmed the validity of the stance and proposals on disarmament issues as contained in the statement of the Bucharest Conference of the Political Consultative Committee "For a stable and secure Europe, free of nuclear and chemical weapons, for major reduction of armed forces, armaments and military spending".

6. The Ministers expressed concern over the insufficient development of the general European economic cooperation. The establishment of wide-ranging economic cooperation is in keeping with the growing interdependence between the countries of the Continent, and constitutes an indispensable prerequisite for the formation of the material basis of detente and the elevation of Europe into a qualitatively new economic and technical level of development.

These objectives should be facilitated by a fuller and deeper participation by each State of the Continent in the modern system of the international division of labour, world trade on the basis of commonly recognized principles and rules, including mutual benefit, non-discrimination and most-favoured nation's status. It is necessary to eliminate the barriers and restrictions standing in the way to broader economic, trade, scientific, technical and manufacturing ties, as well as the practice of their hampering on political grounds.

The States - parties to the Warsaw Treaty are in favour of expanded and deeper bilateral and multilateral cooperation on an equal footing, in the field of economics and including the cooperation between economic organizations in Europe. An important role in this work should be played by the 1990 Bonn Conference.

The importance of expanded and deeper international cooperation in environmental protection was stressed. Fresh incentives to such cooperation based on the treatment of the Continent as an ecological whole should be provided by the CSCE Meeting on the Protection of the Environment in Sofia. The participants noted the successful conduct of the Conference and expressed the hope that it will end in concrete conclusions and recommendations, which would positively affects further development of the general European process.

7. The participants in the Meeting expressed their conviction that an inseparable component of the process of building the "Common European House" of a unified Europe in its diversity is full implementation by each state of the entirety of human rights and the fundamental freedoms, the realisation of civil, political, economic, social, cultural and other rights, irrespective of race, sex, language, religion and national origin. Cooperation and businesslike dialogue between states in the humanitarian sphere is becoming an important component of international security and cooperation. In this connection the Ministers came out in favour of broader human contacts and cooperation in the field of information, culture and education. They exchanged the views on the preparations to the Copenhagen and Moscow sessions of the Conference on the human dimensions of the CSCE and to the Cracow Symposium on the European Cultural Heritage.