

N A T O U N C L A S S I F I E D

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MEMORANDUM

To: The Political Committee

From: The Chairman

COMMUNIQUE OF WARSAW PACT FOREIGN MINISTERS,
BUCHAREST, 18th AND 19th FEBRUARY, 1971

Attached is the text of the Bucharest Communiqué as it appeared in Soviet News, a bulletin published by the Press Department of the Soviet Embassy in London. An earlier unofficial English translation of this Communiqué was circulated on 22nd February, 1971 under reference MJ/71/29.

2. An official Soviet translation of the Communiqué into French is not currently available to the Secretariat. The French version of the present paper is, accordingly, based on the translation of the Rumanian text distributed by AGARPRES which was also circulated to the Committee on 22nd February.

(Signed) Jörg KASTL

NATO
1110 Brussels

N A T O U N C L A S S I F I E D

TEXT OF THE COMMUNIQUE ISSUED
BY THE CONFERENCE OF FOREIGN MINISTERS
OF THE WARSAW TREATY MEMBER STATES

A conference of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the member-states of the Warsaw Treaty Organisation - the People's Republic of Bulgaria, the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, the German Democratic Republic, the Hungarian People's Republic, the Polish People's Republic, the Socialist Republic of Romania and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics - was held in Bucharest in February 18 and 19, 1971.

Proceeding from the statement on strengthening security and developing peaceful co-operation in Europe adopted by the meeting of the political consultative committee of the Warsaw Treaty member-states in Berlin on December 2, 1970, the Ministers exchanged information and views on the progress of preparations for convening the all-European conference.

Taking into consideration the positive development in inter-European relations in recent years, the participants in the conference note with satisfaction that a certain movement has been achieved along the road towards an easing of tension on the European continent as a result of the efforts exerted by the socialist countries and the contribution made by other states.

The proposal to convene the all-European conference, advanced by the socialist countries, meets with growing support from the peoples of Europe and European public opinion, which rightly hold that this conference will be a major stage on the road of strengthening peace and security in Europe and of organising all-round and mutually advantageous co-operation between European countries.

The Ministers of Foreign Affairs believe that a practical and constructive approach to concrete problems with the aim of accelerating the holding of the conference on questions of security and co-operation in Europe is possible and necessary in the present conditions.

It was noted that the efforts undertaken lately by the states working for the holding of the all-European conference are contributing to progress in preparing it. In the course of bilateral contacts, the conditions have been created for a transition to preparatory work on a multilateral basis for convening the all-European conference. The task now is not to allow the transition to this new and more active phase of preparing the all-European conference to drag out.

The socialist countries represented at the conference again reaffirm their support for the initiative of the government of Finland in respect of holding preparatory meetings in Helsinki of all interested states and its readiness to participate in such meetings at any time and to empower its appropriate representatives for this purpose. The Ministers of Foreign Affairs stress the need, in order for the practical preparation of the all-European conference to start, of the earliest possible holding of these preparatory meetings, at which it will be possible to discuss and reach agreement on questions relating to the holding of the conference.

At the same time attention was drawn to the fact that those circles which are not in favour of increasing the détente in Europe are intensifying their opposition to the all-European conference being held. This manifests itself in the posing of various preliminary conditions for holding the conference with the purpose of complicating the preparatory work and in the linking of the question of convening the conference with other problems, since this would be a serious obstacle to the conference being held. The decisions of the recent session of the NATO Council in Brussels are also aimed at furthering this policy and at intensifying the arms race in Europe. All this is hampering the development of favourable processes in Europe which are in the interests of the peoples of the European continent and the interests of peace.

In this situation the need arises to adopt additional measures to remove the obstacles that are being created in the way of convening the all-European conference. On the instructions of their governments, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs again express the firm determination of the states participating in the conference to work for the speediest conclusion of the preparatory work to convene the all-European conference. The governments of these countries call on the governments of all interested states to exert further efforts in this direction.

The socialist countries represented at the conference will further exert constructive efforts directed at the development of normal and mutually advantageous relations between all states of the continent and will work for the establishment and consolidation of an atmosphere of peace, for ending the arms race, for easing tensions and for co-operation in Europe and in the whole world.

The Warsaw Treaty member-states consider it important to stress again the great significance for the cause of European and international security of the establishment of equal relations between the German Democratic Republic and other states which have not yet established such relations. Relations based on the generally accepted standards of international law should be established between the German Democratic Republic and the Federal Republic of Germany. An end to the opposition to the acceptance of the GDR into the United Nations and other international organisations would also be in the interests of easing tensions. The participants in the conference consider it to be their fraternal duty to give the GDR every assistance in these matters, and will take appropriate steps in this respect.