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Letter dated 12 February 1980 from the Permanent
Representative of the German Democratic Republic
to the Chairman of the Committee on Disarmament

I have the honour to transmit to you enclosed the communiqué adopted at
the meeting of the Committee of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the
Warsaw Treaty Member States held at Berlin on 5 and 6 December 1979.

I should be grateful if you would have the communiqué circulated as a
working document of the Committee on Disarmament.

(signed) Gerhard Herder
Permanent Representative of
the German Democratic Republic
to the Committee on Disarmament

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ANNEX

MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE OF MINISTERS OF FOREIGN
AFFAIRS OF THE WARSAW TREATY MEMBER STATES

On 5-6 December, 1979, a meeting of the Committee of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the member States of the Warsaw Treaty on friendship, co-operation and mutual assistance was held in Berlin.

The meeting was attended by Minister of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of Bulgaria P. Mladenov, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Hungarian People's Republic F. Puja, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the German Democratic Republic O. Fischer, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Polish People's Republic E. Wojtaszek, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Republic of Romania S. Andrei, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics A. Gromyko, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, D. Chnoupek.

The ministers exchanged opinions on the topical international problems. Special attention was given to the problem of military détente and disarmament in Europe as a key area of struggle for consolidating European peace and security. Taking account of the important role and significance of the Madrid meeting of the representatives of the States participants of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe for a further improvement of the situation in the continent, the ministers conducted a detailed exchange of opinions with regard to its preparation and ways of contributing to its success.

1. The ministers have reaffirmed the resolve and the will of their States to persistently work, together with other States and all peace forces, in the interests of deepening and consolidating détente, to make efforts to achieve implementation of proposals put forward in the Declaration of the Warsaw Treaty member States adopted at the meeting of the Political Consultative Committee in Moscow on 23 November, 1978.

In connexion with the task of consolidating détente, the ministers stressed the major importance of signing, in June of this year, of the Treaty between the USSR and the United States on limiting the strategic offensive arms (SALT-II).

A general opinion was expressed that the entry of this Treaty into force will contribute to consolidation of international security and create more favourable conditions for moving forward in the field of ending the arms race and achieving disarmament, including in the European continent.

The States represented at the meeting advocate embarking, without delay, after the entry of the SALT-II Treaty into force, on negotiations on further limitation and substantial reduction of the strategic armaments (SALT-III).

The ministers restated the urgency of the tasks of curbing the arms race and passing over to the implementation of practical measures of disarmament, especially nuclear. The proposals put forward at the meeting of the States, bearing on these questions, retain their validity and await their rapid implementation.

2. In the exchange of opinions on the situation in Europe, the ministers unanimously declared, on behalf of their countries, that especially topical and urgent at present are becoming the questions of military détente on the European continent. All the European peoples, all the peoples of the world are interested in the adoption of effective measures for their resolution. The prospect for a further development of the process of international détente is largely dependent on their resolution.

The States represented at the meeting are of the view that the new recent initiatives of the Soviet Union, taken by it following the consultations with the other members of the Warsaw Treaty and in full accord with the Moscow Declaration of the Political Consultative Committee of 23 November, 1978, with the interests and urgent requirements of the consolidation of security in Europe and the whole world, represent a major contribution to the solution of these problems. Constituting an expression of the profoundly peaceful policy of the socialist countries, these initiatives are called upon to contribute to a reduction in the level of military confrontation and cessation of the arms race in Europe, including in the field of medium-range missile -- nuclear weapons, to provide a powerful impulse for the attainment of important agreements on military aspects of European security.

3. It is thus with even greater concern that the States represented at the meeting note that, within NATO, there continues -- and is even stepped up -- the elaboration of dangerous plans for a further intensification of the arms race in Europe, above all -- of plans to station in the territory of Western Europe new types of United States medium-range missile-nuclear weapons with a view to gaining military superiority over the socialist countries. Implementation of these plans would prejudice the interests of security of both the socialist and other countries of Europe, run counter to the aims and the *raison d'être* of the policy of *détente*.

Proceeding from the vital interests of the European peoples, the interests of peace in the European continent, the ministers, on behalf of their States, address the governments of the countries members of the North Atlantic Alliance with an appeal to consider once again -- in the light of the constructive and peaceful steps of the States of the Warsaw Treaty -- the situation now developing in Europe and to abstain from steps capable of complicating the situation in the continent.

In this case it will be possible to embark, without delay, on businesslike negotiations on issues pertaining to the medium-range nuclear weapons in keeping with the proposals put forward in the speech of L.I. Brezhnev in Berlin on 6 October of this year. These proposals have attracted the attention of broad circles in Europe and far beyond it. And, in the profound conviction of the States of the Warsaw Treaty, the earlier the negotiations proposed by them are embarked upon, the better.

At the same time, the States represented at the meeting consider it important that no steps be taken capable of complicating the situation and obstructing the negotiations. In this connexion, the participants of the meeting stated that the adoption of the decision on the production and stationing in Western Europe of new types of United States medium-range missile-nuclear weapons and implementation of such a decision would destroy the basis for negotiations. This would mean an attempt by NATO to engage in negotiations from positions of strength which is, as a matter of principle, unacceptable to the States of the Warsaw Treaty. The governments of the NATO countries cannot be unaware of this.

The ministers express the hope that the NATO countries will give a positive response to the appeal of the socialist countries not to station more nuclear weapons in Europe, to their proposal to embark on negotiations. They reaffirm the conviction of their countries that the balance of forces in the European continent can and must be maintained not through building up armed forces and armaments, not through a further stepping up of the arms race, but rather through its cessation, reduction in the level of military confrontation, a resolute transition to concrete measures of disarmament, especially nuclear. A State or a government acting in an opposite direction would assume a heavy responsibility before mankind.

4. In considering the practical ways of co-ordinating measures of military détente, the ministers exchanged information on the contacts and consultations of their countries with other States participants of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe about the proposal to convene an all-European conference on the political level, put forward by the countries of the Warsaw Treaty on 15 May, 1979, in Budapest.

The ministers came to the conclusion that the interest in holding a conference to consider matters of military détente and disarmament in the European continent is growing everywhere in Europe and that the proposal on such a conference, made by socialist countries, along with the proposals by some other States, has become the subject of serious study. Wishing to promote an earliest reaching of common understanding as to a range of questions which the conference could consider and solve and also as to a procedure of its preparation and work, the States represented at the meeting deem it expedient already at the recent stage to set out their considerations on this score.

They hold that both measures to strengthen trust between States in Europe and measures aimed at lessening concentration and at reducing the armed forces and armaments in the continent could be the subject of discussion at the conference on military détente and disarmament.

It is advisable to consider relevant matters and to co-ordinate concrete understandings on them stage by stage beginning from simpler measures and proceeding step by step to bigger and deeper ones. The work of the conference must be organized so as to ensure continuity from its one stage to another in achieving progress in the field of measures to strengthen trust, to slacken military opposition, to diminish concentration and to reduce the armed forces and armaments, and in other measures of disarmament. In the process, headway in one field will create more possibilities for achieving successes in other fields.

At the first stage of the conference on military detente and disarmament in Europe, work should be concentrated on measures of trust. As regards the development of such measures, which are already being implemented in accordance with the Final Act of the European Conference, and supplementing them, the States represented at the meeting are prepared to agree on the following:

To give notification about big military exercises held in the area defined by the Final Act from the level of 20,000 men and not from the level of 25,000 men, a month, and not three weeks in advance:

To give notification about movements of land troops in the same area from the level of 20,000 men:

To give notification about big air exercises in the area:

To give notification about big naval exercises to be held near the territorial waters of the other States participants in the European Conference:

To limit the scope of military exercises to the level of 40-50 thousand men.

They are also prepared to consider other proposals on measures of trust.

They are also prepared to reach agreement with the other States participants in the European Conference on a procedure and an order of priorities at appropriate stages of the conference in considering concrete proposals on measures to lessen military opposition and on disarmament measures, which have been or may be put forward by its participants, having it in mind to effectively attain the goals of the conference.

In the opinion of the States represented at the meeting, material measures of military detente and disarmament will be the more effective and far reaching, the more definitely they will combine with political and contractual legal steps to lessen the danger of outbreak of war, to strengthen guarantees of the security of States. This is true both on the global and European scale. The proposal by the Warsaw Treaty states that all the States participants in the European Conference conclude a treaty on not being the first to use both nuclear and conventional armaments against one another is directed towards this goal. They come out for the adoption and implementation of all activities and accords aimed at strengthening political and legal foundation of the observance in Europe of the principle of non-use of force or a threat of force.

The participants of the meeting also expressed the view that the same goals would be served by the implementation of the socialist countries' proposal that NATO States and the Warsaw Treaty States undertake not to expand the circle of participants of both alliances. They emphasized the invariable readiness of the States represented at the meeting to go to a simultaneous disbandment of the Warsaw Treaty Organization and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, and as the first step -- to the elimination of their military structures, beginning from a mutual reduction in military activities.

At a conference on military detente and disarmament, it is also advisable to discuss concrete proposals on political and contractual -- legal steps to lessen the danger of outbreak of war -- in the order and sequence which can be co-ordinated among its participants.

Proceeding from the principled aims of the Moscow Declaration of the Political Consultative Committee, dated 23 November 1978, the participants in the meeting point out that a conference on military detente and disarmament in Europe, which they are suggesting, is called upon to become a substantial part and an important direction of the development of the all-European process started by the Helsinki Conference. Its success would become a big contribution to the solution of the task put forward in the Final Act: to make detente both a continuous and increasingly viable process, universal in scope, and to promote stronger security and peace in Europe.

As for the practical preparation of a conference on military detente and disarmament in Europe, the participants in the meeting adhere to the view that such a preparation must be conducted in conjunction with other practical activities which are being carried out within the framework of the all-European process, the nearest of which will be the forthcoming Madrid meeting of representatives of the States participants of the European Conference. They hold that consultations between all the States which participated in the European Conference must play a substantial role in reaching a common consent to the convocation of the conference and its preparation. It is advisable, as experience of the preparation of the European Conference shows, to subsequently switch such consultations, which are held on a bilateral basis, over to a multilateral basis. In the conviction of the participants in the meeting, this should be done as soon as possible, and a multilateral preparatory working meeting should be held in the first half of 1960.

Recommendations on the main matters aimed at organizing the conference, including an agenda of its first stage, which are the result of preparatory work, could be considered at the Madrid meeting of the States participants of the European Conference with a view to taking final decisions as to the convocation and procedure of the conference.

The States represented at the meeting are calling on the States participants in the European Conference to attentively study these considerations about the goals, contents, procedure of work of a conference on military detente and disarmament in Europe and on its preparation, and to respond to them positively so that co-ordination of these matters could be started. Thereby a new real step would be made towards strengthening mutual trust security and peace in Europe.

5. The participants of the meeting reaffirmed the interest of their States in the success of the Vienna talks on reductions of armed forces and armaments in Central Europe, the readiness to contribute to the achievement, through them, of agreements both on the concrete steps to reduce the armed forces and armaments and on the collateral measures.

The initiatives put forward by the States members of the Warsaw Treaty at the Vienna talks, aimed at bringing closer together the positions of the parties on the substance of the questions under discussion, have substantially broadened the possibilities for reaching an agreement. The decision of the Soviet Union to reduce unilaterally the number of Soviet troops and armaments in Central Europe creates a new prerequisite for making progress at the Vienna talks. The achievement of such progress requires the display by the Western participants in the negotiations of political will and readiness to really contribute to the lessening of military tensions in Central Europe and to the achievement of an agreement.

6. In exchanging opinions and information about the course of preparations for the Madrid meeting of representatives of the States participants of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe, the ministers reaffirmed once again the significance their States attach to further development of the process, which was ushered in by the All-European Conference, towards détente, consolidation of security and development of co-operation in the European continent. The meeting in Madrid is bound to promote enrichment of the All-European dialogue, to give a fresh stimulus to realization of the Helsinki Final Act as a single whole.

The States, represented at the meeting, as is envisaged by the Moscow Declaration of the Political Consultative Committee, will make efforts to enable the Madrid meeting to practically advance forward the cause of security and co-operation in Europe. They believe that this meeting should promote attainment of accords on military aspects of European security, adoption of appropriate effective measures and, in particular, convocation of a conference on military détente and disarmament in Europe. It is also important that the meeting should promote adoption of measures, in accordance with the provisions of the Helsinki Final Act, aimed at developing broad and unhindered trade exchange, economic and scientific-technical co-operation between all States participants of the All-European Conference. It is also essential that it should make a contribution to further expansion of co-operation also in the sphere of culture, science, education, art and in other humanitarian spheres.

The participants in the meeting stressed the need of intensified preparations for the Madrid meeting. They reaffirmed once again the readiness of their countries to continue conducting, for this purpose, bilateral and multilateral consultations with all States participants of the All-European Conference. They hold that in the course of such consultations it would be important to reach, yet before the opening of the meeting, general understanding on what concrete issues

of relevant sections of the Final Act further practical steps can be taken. These should be questions in the solution of which all States participants of the All-European Conference, are interested, and the consideration of which promises to bring out new possibilities for expansion of co-operation and improvement of the political climate in the European continent.

The ministers expressed the opinion that in the course of the above-mentioned consultations general understanding can be reached also on the question of the level of representation of States at the Madrid meeting, considering its significance in the cause of consolidation of détente, in taking decision on convocation of a conference on military détente and disarmament in Europe, in improving the situation in the continent.

The participants in the meeting expressed the hope that thorough preparations for the Madrid meeting and the holding of the meeting in a businesslike and constructive atmosphere will enable to make at the meeting an appreciable step forward in putting into life the principles and provisions of the Helsinki Final Act.

7. The ministers expressed their States' concern over the incessant and even mounting attempts at reactionary forces to oppose the process of deepening and broadening détente, to sow mistrust and enmity between peoples, to undermine co-operation and mutual understanding between States. The interests of development of mutual respect and friendship between the peoples demand that all the States should firmly undertake to prevent on their territory activities directed against other States, aimed at interference into their internal affairs, and to promote dissemination of truthful information about the life of peoples.

The ministers reaffirmed the unbending determination of their States to construct their relations with all the States, participants of the All-European Conference, just as with all countries of the world, on the basis of the principles of interstate relations, proclaimed on a summit level in the Final Act. They call upon all the States to follow in their international relations this course which meets the interests of all peoples.

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Held at the meeting of the Committee of Ministers of Foreign Affairs was an exchange of opinions in connexion with the approaching 25th anniversary of the Warsaw Treaty of Friendship, Co-operation and Mutual Assistance.

The ministers emphasized that this anniversary would be marked in the spirit of friendship, co-operation, unity and cohesion of their States, keyed by the struggle for the deepening of the process of détente, for an end to the arms race and transition to disarmament, for consolidation of peace and strengthening of security in Europe, keyed by vigorous and constructive activities of the Warsaw Treaty member States in solution of international problems, in the development of equitable and friendly relations between States for the good of all peoples.

In connexion with the 25th anniversary of the Warsaw Treaty, the meeting adopted recommendations which are to be reported to the governments of the Treaty member States.

The meeting of the Committee of Foreign Ministers was held in an atmosphere of comradely co-operation and fraternal friendship.
