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POLAND

Resolution of the Eighth Congress of the  
Polish United Workers' Party

FOR THE PRESERVATION OF PEACE, FOR THE HALTING OF ARMS RACE  
AND THE CONTINUATION OF THE POLICY OF DETENTE

The Eighth Congress of the Polish United Workers' Party fully endorses the consistent implementation by the Central Committee, the Political Bureau and the First Secretary, Comrade Edward Gierek, the general line of the foreign policy which for more than 35 years has been serving the vital interests of the people of Poland: the consolidation of independence, sovereignty and security of Poland, the strengthening of its worthy position in Europe and the world at large. By pursuing that line, our Party and State are thus making a contribution to the strengthening of the unity and the development of the fraternal co-operation of the socialist States, to their joint initiatives and efforts in favour of peace, to the successful shaping of international relations. All the tasks which ensue from the basic guidelines of the foreign policy of the Polish People's Republic are retaining their full validity.

On behalf of the entire Party, the Congress thereby confirms the assessment of the current international situation, as contained in the main report, and Comrade Gierek's appeal for vigorous action to preserve peace, stop the arms race and continue the policy of détente. The appeal does express the most profound aspirations and the will of the Polish people, its commitment to peace as the most supreme value, based upon its tragic experiences of history, on its freedom-oriented and progressive traditions, and its desire that the country's development thrives further.

Mapping out at the Congress plans for the socio-economic development of the country, which has taken great pains to rise from the ruins of war and whose people so vividly remember its immense sacrifices and losses, guided by a sense of our moral right and obligation, we call for joint action in the name of ensuring all the European nations conditions of life and work in peace.

It is from Warsaw, the city which the world views as a symbol of victory of will to life over destructive forces of crime and war, expressing our people's deep concern over international developments the Eighth Congress of the Polish United Workers' Party, on behalf of the people of Poland addresses all nations of Europe:

Our continent, which experienced the nightmare of most devastating wars in world's history, has over the past four decades embarked upon an unprecedented venture to build durable peace.

What the peoples of Europe have achieved along that road can hardly be compared with any other period of its history. Warsaw, Moscow and Paris, Belgrade and Rome, Berlin and London, Prague and Oslo, now live with a sense of confidence in the future. Their citizens are building new beautiful houses, believing as they do that their effort will serve generations to come. Mutual trust is growing among nations which were once at odds. Numerous humanitarian problems have been successfully solved. Traditional ties are being re-established while developing are new ones in the economic, cultural, scientific and human fields.

Détente is a great joint achievement of the peoples and States of Europe which owes it the path of dialogue, agreements, and confidence-building of the past decade:

- recognition has been granted and respect pledged for the inviolability of the post-war political and territorial realities on our continent;
- disarmament talks on the reduction of armed forces and armaments in Central Europe have started;
- all bilateral contacts have been intensified, being particularly enhanced by meetings of State leaders;
- there has been an expansion of mutually beneficial economic co-operation and exchanges in all other fields.

All this has effected in a deepening of the feeling of community of destinies of European peoples and their co-responsibility for the security of the continent.

We earnestly hope that the forthcoming meeting in Madrid of representatives of States-signatories of the Helsinki Final Act will strongly reaffirm the validity of those developments.

One must not allow that the entire record of accomplishment so far be frustrated. Peoples and States cannot afford giving up the all-round benefits of the process of détente. Yet, it is generally felt among the people of Poland as well as among other peoples that dangers to peace are growing as a result of the arms race, heightened by military-industrial complexes, a race which is accompanied by deterioration in the international atmosphere, by undermining the level of mutual confidence and co-operation already achieved.

The dangers in question stem mainly from NATO's decisions of last December to start production and deploy new kinds of missile nuclear weapons in Western Europe. The decisions are tantamount to imposition on Europe of yet another phase of arms race, to a growing danger of a nuclear conflict on our continent. They carry a risk of the West German Bundeswehr getting closer to missile nuclear weapons.

At this particular time so decisive for the further development of the entire international situation, it is more necessary than ever to have the joint co-operative action of all the forces of peace and realism to protect the heretofore accomplishments of détente, to continue it and make it irreversible.

We fully share the position of the leading spokesman of the policy of peace -- the General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, Comrade Leonid Brezhnev, as to the feasibility of the preservation and continuation of the policy of détente, as a trend dominating international relations.

We urge to turn back from a dangerous path of escalation of tensions, to observe scrupulously the existing treaties and agreements, to reverse decisions on new armaments, to continue the present negotiations and start new ones on the reduction of military arsenals, to encourage an atmosphere of dialogue and mutual trust.

International developments confirm the fundamental point of the States-Parties to the Warsaw Treaty as to the necessity of consolidating the security and strengthening political détente by way of military détente. The latter being the most urgent task, we call for:

- the ratification of the second Soviet-American Treaty On the Limitation of Offensive Strategic Arms, the conclusion of which has been hailed by all peoples, and for the announced negotiations to start on SALT III; the dialogue and agreement between the Soviet Union and the United States is of crucial importance in protecting mankind against a world-wide nuclear conflict;

- reversing NATO's decision to start up production and deploy new missile nuclear weapons in Western Europe;

- negotiations to start on the limitation of medium-range missile nuclear weapons, as proposed by the USSR and supported by all States members of the Warsaw Treaty;

- breaking the deadlock and achieving understanding in the Vienna talks;

- revitalization of negotiations in the Committee on Disarmament in Geneva.

The speediest possible convening of a conference on military détente and disarmament in Europe would be of particular importance today. Agreement to that effect might become a turning point in the international situation. It would constitute a stimulus to move forward the ongoing negotiations and create favourable premises to solve disarmament problems in Europe.

The Congress lends its warm support for the readiness expressed by Comrade Edward Gierek to host such a conference in our heroic capital ---the city of peace -- Warsaw.

We believe it necessary that the material infrastructure of détente be strengthened through a steady expansion of trade, economic, scientific and technological co-operation as well as industrial co-production. We declare ourselves in favour of the continuation of normalization and development of relations among States. We urge further rapprochement of European nations through a development of contacts between them, through cultural exchanges, sports and tourism, to be duly reflected by the forthcoming Olympic Games in Moscow.

We rest assured that the present appeal will be received with full support by the Communist and Workers' Parties, by all the forces of progress and peace in Europe. We hope it will be met with understanding and positive response on the part of States participating in the all-European process of détente.

The Polish United Workers' Party will unswervingly strive towards the consolidation of the unity and co-operation, based on the community of ideas, of the international communist and working class movement, towards materialization of the historic mission embarked upon by that movement to save mankind from a new world war. We shall continue doing our utmost in taking up, jointly with other Parties, new initiatives with a view to implementing the programme of the struggle for peace, security, co-operation and social progress in Europe, as adopted by the Berlin Conference.

In solidarity with all the forces of socialism, progress and democracy, with all peoples struggling for freedom and the right to decide their own way of development, we shall be making our contribution to the consolidation of the entire anti-imperialist and anti-hegemonistic front of struggle for the loftiest goal — the defence and strengthening of world peace.

The right of individuals and peoples to life in peace is the inalienable and the supreme right!

Warsaw, February 1980