

## Declaration of the Political Consultative Committee of the Warsaw Pact on the strengthening of peace and security in Europe (Bucharest, 5 July 1966)

**Caption:** On 5 July 1966, in the statement on the strengthening of peace and security in Europe, the Political Consultative Committee of the Warsaw Pact proposes the simultaneous dissolution of the two military blocs, the recognition of the existence of two German States, the development of agreements on disarmament in Germany and in Europe and the convening of a general European conference with a view to discussing the problems of ensuring security in Europe and of establishing general European cooperation.

**Source:** The proposed European security conference 1954-1971. Brief prepared by Mr. E. Nessler, Rapporteur. Paris: Western European Union Assembly, December 1971. 99 p. (General Affairs Committee. Seventeenth Ordinary Session). "6. Declaration issued at the close of the meeting of the Political Consultative Committee of the Warsaw Pact, 5 July 1966 (Extract)", p. 17-19.

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## Declaration issued at the close of the meeting of the Political Consultative Committee of the Warsaw Pact on the strengthening of peace and security in Europe, Bucharest (5 July 1966)

(Extract)

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The countries that have signed this declaration consider that the need has matured for steps to be taken towards the relaxation, above all, of military tension in Europe. An important advance towards this would be the simultaneous dissolution of the existing military alliances, and the present situation makes this possible. The governments of our States have more than once pointed out that in case of the discontinuance of the operation of the North Atlantic Alliance, the Warsaw Treaty would become invalid, and that their place ought to be taken by a European security system. They now solemnly reaffirm their readiness for the simultaneous abolition of these alliances.

If, however, the member States of the North Atlantic Treaty are still not ready to accept the complete dissolution of both alignments, the States that have signed this Declaration consider that it is already now expedient to reach an understanding on the abolition of the military organisations, both of the North Atlantic Pact and the Warsaw Treaty. At the same time, they declare that as long as the North Atlantic bloc exists, and aggressive imperialist circles encroach on world peace, the socialist countries represented at this meeting maintaining high vigilance, are fully resolved to strengthen their might and defence potential.

At the same time, we believe it necessary that all member States of the North Atlantic Pact and the Warsaw Treaty, and also the countries who do not participate in any military alliances, should exert efforts on a bilateral or multilateral basis with the object of advancing the cause of European security.

3. Great importance is now also assumed by such partial measures towards military relaxation on the European continent as :

the abolition of foreign war bases ;

the withdrawal of all forces from foreign territories to within their national frontiers ;

the reduction, on an agreed scale and at agreed deadlines, of the numerical strength of the armed forces of both German States ;

measures aimed at the elimination of the danger of a nuclear conflict : the setting up of nuclear-free zones and the assumption of the commitment by the nuclear powers not to use these weapons against the States which are parties to such zones, etc. ;

the ending of flights by foreign planes carrying atom or hydrogen bombs over the territories of European States and of the entry of foreign submarines and surface ships with nuclear arms on board into the ports of such States.

4. Bearing in mind the danger to the cause of peace in Europe of the nuclear claims of the Federal Republic of Germany, the States must concentrate their efforts on excluding the possibility of access of the Federal Republic of Germany to nuclear weapons in any form — directly, or indirectly through alignments of States — and to exclusive control or any form of participation in the control of such weapons. The way this problem is resolved will largely determine the future of the peoples of Europe, and not only the peoples of Europe. On this question, too, half-hearted decisions are impermissible.

5. The immutability of frontiers is the foundation of a lasting peace in Europe. The interests of the normalisation of the situation in Europe demand that all States, both in Europe and outside the European continent, proceed in their foreign political actions from recognition of the frontiers that really exist between European States, frontiers which took shape after the most devastating war in the history of mankind, including the Polish frontier on the Oder-Neisse line and the frontiers between the two German States.

6. A German peace settlement is in accord with the interests of peace in Europe. The socialist States which are represented at the meeting are ready to continue the search for the solution of this problem. This solution must take into consideration the interests of the security of all the countries concerned and the security of Europe as a whole.

A constructive approach to this question, just as to other aspects of security in Europe, is only possible if it proceeds from reality, above all, from recognition of the fact of the existence of two German States — the German Democratic Republic and the Federal Republic of Germany. At the same time, such a settlement requires recognition of the existing frontiers and the refusal of both German States to possess nuclear weapons.

The equal participation of both German States in the efforts aimed at the development and strengthening of relations of inter-European co-operation in various fields of activity — political, economic, scientific, technical and cultural — will enable their working class, peasantry, intellectuals and all the population, to make their contribution, according to their possibilities and constructive abilities, together with other European peoples, to the cause of progress and peace.

As for the reunion of both German States, the way to this lies through the relaxation of tension, through a gradual *rapprochement* between the two sovereign German States and agreements between them, through agreements on disarmament in Germany and Europe, and on the basis of the principle that when Germany is reunited, the united German State would be truly peaceful and democratic and would never again be a danger to its neighbours or to peace in Europe.

7. Convocation of a general European conference to discuss the questions of ensuring security in Europe and organising general European co-operation would be of great positive importance. The agreement reached at the conference could be expressed, for example, in the form of a general European declaration on co-operation for the maintenance and strengthening of European security. Such a declaration could provide for an undertaking by the signatories to be guided in their relations by the interests of peace, to settle disputes by peaceful means only, to hold consultations and exchange information on questions of mutual interest and to contribute to the all-round development of economic, scientific, technical and cultural relations. The declaration should be open to all interested States to join.

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