

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

A regular meeting of the Committee of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the States Parties to the Warsaw Treaty of Friendship, Co-operation and Mutual Assistance was held in Moscow on 24-25 March 1987.

The meeting was attended by the following Ministers of Foreign Affairs: Peter Mladenov, of the People's Republic of Bulgaria, Peter Varkonyi, of the Hungarian People's Republic, Oscar Fischer, of the German Democratic Republic, Marian Orzechowski, of the Polish People's Republic, Ioan Totu, of the Socialist Republic of Romania, Eduard Shevardnadze, of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, and Bohuslav Chňoupek, of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic.

1. The Ministers of Foreign Affairs exchanged views on the state of affairs in Europe and in the world as a whole. The discussions centred on the cardinal issues of our time: removal of the nuclear threat, ridding mankind of the burden of nuclear and other arms, strengthening European and universal security, and development of international co-operation.

The participants in the meeting, having expressed the concern of the countries over the fact that the complex international situation persists as a result of the intensification of the arms race, above all the nuclear arms race, through the actions of the United States and NATO, emphasized the need to intensify and combine the efforts of all countries for the purposes of disarmament, and resolutely to press for the establishment of a nuclear-free and non-violent world.

It was pointed out at the meeting that the large-scale proposals which had been put forward by the Soviet Union in Reykjavik signified a qualitatively new approach to disarmament issues and were a further development of the programme set out in the 15 January 1986 Statement by the General Secretary of the Central Committee of the CPSU, for the establishment of a nuclear-free world. The Warsaw Treaty Member States are resolved to work to make further headway from the ground gained in the capital of Iceland, to seek deep, radical cuts in and the elimination of nuclear weapons, to prevent the arms race from spreading to outer space, and to press for strict observance of the terms of the ABM Treaty. It is essential to do everything to enable the accords which had begun to emerge to become embodied in specific agreements. In this connection the Warsaw Treaty Member States again advocated the continuation and deepening of political dialogue between countries.

The States represented at the meeting emphasized the need for the Soviet Union and the United States to sign without delay a separate agreement, under which United States and Soviet medium-range missiles in Europe would be fully eliminated. They support the Soviet Union's proposal on this score and welcome its readiness to withdraw longer-range theatre missiles from the German Democratic Republic and Czechoslovakia, by agreement with the Governments of those countries, immediately after a Soviet-United States agreement is signed. As far as other theatre missiles are concerned, the USSR is prepared immediately to begin talks with a view to reducing and completely eliminating them. The conclusion of an agreement on medium-range missiles as soon as possible would open the way for the complete deliverance of Europe from nuclear weapons.