

Annex

DECLARATION ISSUED ON 23 OCTOBER 1985 AT SOFIA BY THE POLITICAL  
CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE OF THE WARSAW TREATY ORGANIZATION

The highest-level representatives of 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 assembled in Sofia on 22 and 23 October 1985 for a meeting of the Political Consultative Committee of the States Parties to the Warsaw Treaty, reviewed in detail the situation in Europe and exchanged views on the key issues of international relations as a whole, devoting prime attention to the urgent tasks of the struggle to eliminate the nuclear threat and to strengthen peace. A fruitful discussion of the urgent problems relating to the further development of co-operation among the States Parties to the Warsaw Treaty also took place.

Aware of their responsibility to their peoples and to mankind for the fate of peace in Europe and the rest of the world and guided by their desire to make a positive breakthrough in the present alarming development of international affairs, the participants in the meeting jointly make the following Declaration:

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In recent years international tension has sharply increased. The world has moved closer to the point beyond which events could get out of hand.

The arms race is on a swiftly rising curve. The deployment of United States medium-range nuclear missiles in a number of Western European NATO countries has precipitated a new dangerous situation on the continent and has forced the Soviet Union and some other socialist countries to take counter-measures.

Of particular concern is the threat of an extension of the arms race to outer space, which would destabilize the overall strategic situation and transform outer space into a new source of mortal danger to mankind.

The causes of the mounting tension and of the threat of war are rooted in the policy of imperialism and primarily that pursued by the United States, which does not conceal its intention to achieve military superiority in order to dictate its will to other peoples and States.

Under no circumstances will the States Parties to the Warsaw Treaty sacrifice the security of their peoples. They are not seeking military superiority, but neither will they allow military superiority to be established over them. They are firmly opposed to the arms race and its escalation, and advocate maintaining a balance of forces at the lowest level.