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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

13 March 1978

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Director of Central Intelligence  
FROM : John N. McMahon  
Deputy Director for Operations  
SUBJECT : Official Report of the Sixteenth Session of the  
Warsaw Pact Military Council and Related Documents

1. The enclosed Intelligence Information Special Report is a translation from Russian of an incomplete set of TOP SECRET and SECRET documents pertaining to the 16th Session of the Military Council of the Combined Armed Forces held in Sofia, Bulgaria, in October 1977. The Official Report of the session and draft agenda and recommendations of the Council cover the topics of operational and combat training, the status of air reconnaissance and field air defense, and the standardization of weapons and equipment. A summary report indicates the progress that has been made in unification and standardization as well as some delays in the production of new weapons. The Romanian representative dissented in three instances. The Official Report lists the proposed agenda topics for the May and October 1978 sessions of the Council.

2. Because the source of this report is extremely sensitive, this document should be handled on a strict need-to-know basis within recipient agencies.

John N. McMahon

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## Intelligence Information Special Report

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COUNTRY USSR/WARSAW PACT

DATE OF  
INFO. 20 October 1977

DATE 13 March 1978

SUBJECT

Official Report of the Sixteenth Session of the Warsaw Pact  
Military Council and Related Documents

SOURCE Documentary

### Summary:

The following report is a translation from Russian of an incomplete set of TOP SECRET and SECRET documents pertaining to the 16th Session of the Military Council of the Combined Armed Forces held in Sofia, Bulgaria, in October 1977. The Official Report of the session and draft agenda and recommendations of the Council cover the topics of operational and combat training, the status of air reconnaissance and field air defense, and the standardization of weapons and equipment. A summary report indicates the progress that has been made in unification and standardization as well as some delays in the production of new weapons. The Romanian representative dissented in three instances. The Official Report lists the proposed agenda topics for the May and October 1978 sessions of the Council.

End of Summary

### Comment:

This report should be read in context with "Directive on the Operational and Combat Training of the Combined Armed Forces of the Warsaw Pact for 1978" and "Unification and Standardization of Military Equipment Being Adopted to Equip Allied Armies"

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OFFICIAL REPORT  
OF THE SESSION OF THE MILITARY COUNCIL  
OF THE COMBINED ARMED FORCES OF THE  
WARSAW PACT MEMBER STATES

No. 0016

20 October 1977

Sofia

THE SESSION TOOK PLACE COMPOSED OF THE FOLLOWING:

The Chairman of the Military Council -- Commander-in-Chief of the  
Combined Armed Forces  
Marshal of the Soviet Union  
V. G. KULIKOV

Members of the Military Council:

The Deputy Commanders-in-Chief of the Combined Armed Forces of  
the Warsaw Pact Member States from the:

Bulgarian People's Army

-- First Deputy Minister of National Defense of the People's Republic  
of Bulgaria, Chief of the General Staff of the Bulgarian People's  
Army Colonel General A. G. SEMERDZHIEV

Hungarian People's Army

-- State Secretary of the Ministry of Defense of the  
Hungarian People's Republic  
General-Leytenant Karolyi CSEMI

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National People's Army of the German Democratic Republic

-- Deputy Minister for National Defense, Chief of the Main Staff of the National People's Army of the German Democratic Republic  
Colonel General H. KESSLER

Polish Armed Forces

-- Chief Inspector of Training, Vice Minister of National Defense of the Polish People's Republic  
General of Arms E. MOLCZYK

Army of the Socialist Republic of Romania

-- Deputy Minister of National Defense of the Socialist Republic of Romania  
Colonel General M. NICOLESCU

Armed Forces of the USSR

-- Deputy Minister of Defense of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics Marshal of the Soviet Union K. S. MOSKALENKO

Czechoslovak People's Army

-- Chief of the General Staff of the Czechoslovak People's Army, First Deputy Minister of Defense of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic  
Colonel General K. RUSOV

Deputy Commander-in-Chief of the Combined Armed Forces for Armament, Chief of the Technical Committee of the Combined Armed Forces  
Engineer General-Leytenant I. A. FABRIKOV

The Session of the Military Council was opened by the introductory address of the Commander-in-Chief of the Combined Armed Forces Marshal of the Soviet Union V. G. KULIKOV. He conveyed to the participants in the session the warmest communist greetings from the General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, Chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR Marshal of the Soviet Union L. I. BREZHNEV and from Member of the Politburo of the Central Committee of

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the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and Minister of Defense of the USSR Marshal of the Soviet Union D. F. USTINOV. Marshal of the Soviet Union V. G. KULIKOV briefly described the situation in which the session of the Military Council was being held and thanked the Central Committee of the Bulgarian Communist Party and personally thanked the First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Bulgarian Communist Party and Chairman of the State Council of the People's Republic of Bulgaria Todor ZHIVKOV for having made it possible to hold the Sixteenth Session of the Military Council on the territory of the People's Republic of Bulgaria. He expressed confidence that the recommendations developed at the session will contribute to the further strengthening of the Combined Armed Forces.

Minister of National Defense of the People's Republic of Bulgaria General of the Army Dobri DZHUROV attended the opening session of the Military Council and made a welcoming speech on behalf of First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Bulgarian Communist Party and Chairman of the State Council of the People's Republic of Bulgaria Todor ZHIVKOV.

The Minister of National Defense of the People's Republic of Bulgaria stressed that the Sixteenth Session of the Military Council of the Combined Armed Forces was being held under conditions of the increasing solidarity of the states of the socialist commonwealth, in a situation of great overall progress prompted by the preparations of the peoples and armies of the socialist countries to celebrate the Sixtieth Anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution. General of the Army D. DZHUROV cordially welcomed those participating in the session and wished them productive work.

Those present listened with great attention to the speeches of Marshal of the Soviet Union V. G. KULIKOV and General of the Army D. DZHUROV.

In addition to the members of the Military Council, the following participated in the work of the Sixteenth Session:

a) from the armies of the Warsaw Pact member states:

-- Bulgarian People's Army -- General B. S. TODOROV, Admiral  
I. S. DOBREV, Generals V. S. ZIKULOV,  
L. I. BLAGOEV, Vice Admiral  
V. G. YANAKIEV, Generals S. M. MITEV,  
P. D. MINCHEV, G. I. GEORGIEV, Colonels  
S. N. PENKOV, G. P. KOLEV;

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- Hungarian People's Army -- Generals J. PACSEK, A. MENYHART, T. TOT,  
S. KISS; L. NITRAI, Colonel E. POLGAR,  
Lieutenant Colonels I. EDRES, T. MAGYARI;
- National People's Army of the German Democratic Republic -- Generals  
H. STECHBARTH, V. REINHOLDT, V. NEIDHARDT,  
G. TAPPERT, P. KNEIPHOF, Admiral  
V. EM, Colonels V. ZIKMANN,  
G. WIRSCHING, K. HERET, Lieutenant  
Colonel G. KLANG;
- Polish Armed Forces -- Generals V. SZKLARSKI, L. LOZOWICKI,  
T. OBRANIECKI, J. SOBIERAJ, Admiral H.  
PIETRASZKIEWICZ, Generals M. BRONOWIECKI,  
M. GURSKI, Colonels E. ZAJKO,  
Z. IWANKIEWICZ;
- Army of the Socialist Republic of Romania -- Generals G. LOGOFATU,  
M. MOCANU, G. CETINA, Colonels D. ENACHE,  
A. MATEESCU;
- Armed Forces of the USSR -- Marshal of Aviation A. N. YEFIMOV,  
Admiral G. A. BONDARENKO, Generals I. V.  
AFANASENKO, P. V. GURYEV,  
Ye. V. KALASHNIKOV, V. N. BABYEV,  
Colonel I. Ye. KATALOV;
- Czechoslovak People's Army -- Generals I. REMEK, M. ZIKA,  
M. PRELEC, J. NECAS, K. SENECEI,  
G. GAMARIA, I. GREBIK, Colonel  
J. JINDRA.

b) Representatives of the Commander-in-Chief of the Combined Armed Forces in the armies of the Warsaw Pact member states -- Generals Kh. M. AMBARYAN, Yu. A. NAUMENKO, M. T. TANKAYEV, A. F. SHCHEGLOV, V. K. DYATLENKO, D. I. LITOVTSSEV;

c) from the Staff and Directorates of the Commander-in-Chief of the Combined Armed Forces -- Generals T. I. KRYSIEV, L. FAZEKAS, K. GOTTWALD, J. KAMINSKI, D. PANESCU, A. A. DEMENTYEV, M. KORBELYA, Vice Admiral F. I. SAVELYEV, Generals A. G. MEREZHKO, A. N. POTEKIN, K. I. ARSENYEV, V. I. MERKULOV, V. I. ANOSHKIN;

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d) from the Command of the Air Defense Forces of the Warsaw Pact member states -- General I. D. PODGORNYY.

AGENDA

1. Results of the operational and combat training of the Combined Armed Forces for 1977. Examination of the drafts of the Directive of the Commander-in-Chief of the Combined Armed Forces on Operational and Combat Training and of the Plan of Combined Undertakings for 1978.

Speaker -- Commander-in-Chief of the Combined Armed Forces  
Marshal of the Soviet Union V. G. KULIKOV

2. The status and prospects for further development of air reconnaissance

Speaker -- Chief Inspector of Training and Vice Minister of  
National Defense of the Polish People's Republic  
General of Arms E. MOLCZYK

3. Progress in the implementation of the Decision of the Ninth Session of the Committee of Defense Ministers on 'The Unification and Standardization of Items of Military Equipment Being Adopted to Equip the Armies of the Member States of the Warsaw Pact'.

Speaker -- Deputy Commander-in-Chief of the Combined Armed Forces  
for Armament and Chief of the Technical Committee of the  
Combined Armed Forces  
Engineer General-Leytenant I. A. FABRIKOV

4. Progress in carrying out in the armies of the Warsaw Pact countries the recommendations of the Tenth Session of the Military Council of the Combined Armed Forces concerning the matter of 'The Status of Field Air Defense and the Measures to Further Improve It'.

Speakers -- State Secretary of the Ministry of Defense of the  
Hungarian People's Republic  
General-Leytenant Karolyi CSEMI,

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-- Chief of the General Staff of the Czechoslovak  
People's Army and First Deputy Minister of National  
Defense of the Czechoslovak People's Republic  
Colonel General K. RUSOV

5. Coordination of the plan for the 1978 sessions of the Military  
Council of the Combined Armed Forces.

Speaker -- Commander-in-Chief of the Combined Armed Forces  
Marshal of the Soviet Union V. G. KULIKOV

I. HEARD: the report of the Commander-in-Chief of the Combined Armed  
Forces Marshal of the Soviet Union V. G. KULIKOV, "Results of the  
Operational and Combat Training of the Combined Armed Forces for 1977.  
Examination of the Drafts of the Directive of the Commander-in-Chief of the  
Combined Armed Forces on Operational and Combat Training and the Plan of  
Combined Undertaking for 1978".

(Report is attached to the original copy of the Official Report.)

Speakers: Comrades A. G. SEMERDZHIEV, Karolyi CSEMI, H. KESSLER,  
E. MOLCZYK, M. NICOLESCU, K. S. MOSKALENKO, K. RUSOV, V. G. KULIKOV.

All speakers supported the main statements of the report and stressed  
the importance of carrying out all of the planned combined undertakings,  
especially the conduct of the combined staff training session. However,  
despite this, Colonel General M. NICOLESCU reaffirmed the fact that the  
General Staff of the Army of the Socialist Republic of Romania will not  
participate in the combined staff training session in April 1978 because  
the fundamental questions of the wartime control of the Combined Armed  
Forces have not been spelled out.

All members of the Military Council requested of Comrade NICOLESCU  
that he once more convey to the General Staff of the Army of the Socialist  
Republic of Romania their request as to the necessity for it to participate  
in the combined staff training session.

The MILITARY COUNCIL, having examined the results of the operational  
and combat training of the Combined Armed Forces for 1977 and the tasks for  
1978, notes that in 1977 the level of combat and mobilization readiness and  
of operational and combat training of the troops and naval forces has been  
raised. The allied armies have continued the introduction and mastery of  
new systems of weapons and combat equipment. The combat unity of the

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armies of the Warsaw Pact countries has been broadened and strengthened. Based on the experience of exercises conducted under the leadership of the Combined and national commands, important conclusions have been drawn concerning the further improvement of the Combined Armed Forces. The tasks assigned in Directive No. 0077 of the Commander-in-Chief of the Combined Armed Forces and the Plan of Combined Undertakings have been for the most part carried out. At the same time, the tasks of enhancing the quality and effectiveness of troop and staff training have not been accomplished in full.

The MILITARY COUNCIL recommends:

1. That the Staff and Technical Committee of the Combined Armed Forces and the national commands take steps to accomplish fully the tasks confronting the Combined Armed Forces in 1978. That they ensure the high-quality preparation and conduct of the planned undertakings for operational and combat training. That they raise the level of field, air, and naval training proficiency of all large units and units, persistently introduce and master new military equipment and weapons, and improve the system of control of troops and naval forces.
2. That in the course of the exercises of the allied troops and naval forces these troops and forces exploit to the maximum the combat capabilities of their equipment and weapons, that the most efficient methods of employing new weapons be sought, and that there be a continuation of the development of a unity of views on the preparation, conduct, and all-round support of the combat actions of groupings of allied troops in the accomplishment of combined tasks. That we achieve the personal participation of senior personnel of the troops and staffs in the preparation and conduct of all training undertakings. That greater persistence be shown in implementing the principle: "each superior instructs his own subordinates".
3. That for the purposes of further raising the level of training of formation commanders (commanders) and staffs and of improving the method of conducting operational exercises, the Staff of the Combined Armed Forces, in coordination with the General (Main) Staffs of the allied armies:

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-- prepare by 1 November 1978 recommendations for a common method of work for formation commanders (commanders) and staffs in preparing an operation (battle) and during its course so as to introduce these recommendations into the actual operational and combat training of the allied armies;

-- study and synthesize the methods of preparing and conducting command-staff exercises in the allied armies, work out recommendations for the improvement of these methods, and before 1 December 1978 deliver them to the national commands.

4. That during 1978 the national commands study the composition, equipping, and utilization of mobile field control posts at the operational and tactical levels and by 1 October 1978 forward their views to the Staff of the Combined Armed Forces.

5. That during 1978 the Staff and Technical Committee of the Combined Armed Forces, together with the General (Main) Staffs, develop a draft plan and schedule for equipping the allied armies with airborne command posts.

6. That during 1978 the Staff of the Combined Armed Forces synthesize the positive experience gained in implementing the combined combat training undertakings among the units and subunits of the allied armies.

II. HEARD: the report of the Chief Inspector of Training and Vice Minister of National Defense of the Polish People's Republic General of Arms E. MOLCZYK, "The Status and Prospects for Further Development of Air Reconnaissance".

(Report is attached to the original copy of the Official Report.)

Speakers: Comrades A. G. SEMERDZHIEV, E. POLGAR, V. REINHOLDT, M. NICOLESCU, A. N. YEFIMOV, K. RUSOV, V. G. KULIKOV.

The MILITARY COUNCIL takes note of the fact that in the troops and navies of the allied armies that have been allocated to the complement of the Combined Armed Forces of the Warsaw Pact member states, some positive results have been achieved in the training of staffs and reconnaissance organs and units with respect to the organization and conduct of air reconnaissance. Existing reconnaissance aviation units and subunits, in their organizational structure and levels of combat and mobilization readiness, basically ensure that the tasks of air reconnaissance will be accomplished.

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At the same time, reconnaissance aviation units and subunits are still equipped with a large amount of obsolete aviation equipment and of obsolete means for the processing, interpretation, and transmission of reconnaissance data.

Training resources in many units do not provide fully for the training of personnel in the conduct of reconnaissance.

The MILITARY COUNCIL recommends:

1. That the Staff and Technical Committee of the Combined Armed Forces and the national commands devote greater attention to raising the combat and mobilization readiness of air reconnaissance forces and means, thereby achieving the complete fulfilment of the obligations specified by the protocols for the development of the allied armies for the years 1976 to 1980 concerning the re-equipping of reconnaissance aviation with modern types of aircraft and reconnaissance equipment.

2. That provisions be made in the plans for the development of reconnaissance aviation for the years 1981 to 1985 to accept into the service of the air forces of the allied armies new aircraft of the SU-22 and SU-25 types for tactical reconnaissance and aircraft of the MIG-25 type for operational reconnaissance, and also unmanned reconnaissance means fitted out with modern equipment that provides for the conduct of reconnaissance under day and night conditions.

3. That the Staff and Technical Committee of the Combined Armed Forces and the national commands organize in May or June 1978 a display of promising models of air reconnaissance means developed by the allied armies.

That the plans for the 1981 to 1985 scientific research and experimental design work make provisions for the development of modern means of air reconnaissance, including unmanned miniature reconnaissance aircraft, equipment to process aerial photographic film on board the aircraft, means for the transmission of reconnaissance data to the ground, stabilized optical devices for observation of the battlefield, and a laboratory for higher-speed processing of reconnaissance data.

4. That the time required for the collection, processing, analysis, and transmission of reconnaissance data to interested staffs be reduced by equipping control posts with modern communications means, electronic computers, and devices for the automatic transmission of reconnaissance

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information.

5. That there be an improvement of the quality of the combat training of air reconnaissance organs and units as well as of the reconnaissance training of air staffs. That there be a more active development and bolder introduction of new and much more efficient tactical procedures and methods of conducting air reconnaissance using modern technical means. That exercises and practices in air reconnaissance be conducted more frequently.

6. That the training materiel resources of reconnaissance organs and of Air Forces aviation units and subunits be improved. That modern methods of training air reconnaissance personnel using trainers and other technical means be employed more energetically. That the Staff of the Combined Armed Forces and the General (Main) Staffs practice more extensively the exchange of positive experience in organizing and conducting air reconnaissance.

III. HEARD: the information report of the Deputy Commander-in-Chief of the Combined Armed Forces and Chief of the Technical Committee of the Combined Armed Forces Engineer General-Leytenant I. A. FABRIKOV on "Progress in the Implementation of the Decision of the Ninth Session of the Committee of Defense Ministers on the Unification and Standardization of Items of Military Equipment Being Adopted to Equip the Armies of the Member States of the Warsaw Pact".

(Information report is attached to the original copy of the Official Report.)

Speakers: Comrades A. G. SEMERDZHIEV, S. KISS, V. NEIDHARDT, E. MOLCZYK, M. NICOLESCU, G. A. BONDARENKO, K. RUSOV, V. G. KULIKOV.

The MILITARY COUNCIL takes under advisement the information report of the Deputy Commander-in-Chief of the Combined Armed Forces for Armament and notes that the planned undertakings for 1977 relative to unification and standardization have been accomplished.

The planned introduction into the troops and navies of modern unified models is being carried out, obsolete equipment is being replaced and modernized, and weapons are being developed following common requirements.

The armies are completing the preparation of lists of weapons and equipment recommended for the equipping of the troops and navies over the next five-year period. The exhibition demonstrations of the models that are of mutual interest are being prepared.

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Under development are the "Proposals for the Overall Prospective Development of the Troops and Naval Forces Allocated to the Complement of the Combined Armed Forces for 1981 to 1985".

"Regulations" for the standardization of weapons and military equipment within the framework of the Warsaw Pact have been established as have specialized organs for unification and standardization.

The tasks and immediate objectives of the standardization of weapons and military equipment as well as the cooperation procedure have been defined.

The work is being carried out in contact with the Permanent Commission on Defense Industry of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance.

The MILITARY COUNCIL recommends:

1. That the implementation of measures to ensure the fulfilment of the Decision of the Ninth Session of the Committee of Defense Ministers be continued.

2. That in 1978 the Staff and Technical Committee of the Combined Armed Forces together with the Ministries of National Defense:

a) complete the preparation of the "Proposals for the Overall Prospective Development of the Troops and Naval Forces Allocated to the Complement of the Combined Armed Forces for the New Five-Year Period", which must contain recommendations on:

-- the equipment which is to be in service in the current five-year period and is to remain in service over the following five-year period;

-- the models of the weapons recommended to be the first ones put into service;

-- the equipment to be modernized and to be replaced;

-- the levels which must be attained by the end of the next five-year period in the unification of the weapons types;

-- the production of integrated and fully automated systems for the control of troops and weapons;

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b) prepare draft programs for the standardization of weapons and military equipment in the years 1981 to 1985 by types of weapons and military equipment. That the programs be coordinated with the plans for the building of the Combined Armed Forces during that period;

c) bring in the necessary specialists to fully staff the unification and standardization organs that have been set up.

3. That in 1978 the proposal for the equipping of troops and naval forces with modern unified weapons in the years 1981 to 1985 be examined at a session of the Military Council.

IV. HEARD: the information reports of the State Secretary of the Ministry of Defense of the Hungarian People's Republic General-Leytenant Karolyi CSEMI and of the Chief of the General Staff of the Czechoslovak People's Army and First Deputy Minister of National Defense of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic Colonel General K. RUSOV on "Progress in Carrying out the Recommendations of the Tenth Session of the Military Council on 'The Status of Field Air Defense and the Measures to Further Improve It'".

(Information reports are attached to the original copy of the Official Report.)

Speakers: Comrades A. G. SEMERDZHIEV, H. STECHBARTH, E. MOLCZYK, M. NICOLESCU, I. A. AFANASENKO, V. G. KULIKOV.

Having discussed the matter of carrying out the recommendations of the Tenth Session of the Military Council regarding "The Status of Field Air Defense and Measures to Further Improve It", the MILITARY COUNCIL takes under advisement the information reports of the general staffs of the Hungarian and Czechoslovak People's Armies and notes that work is being carried out in the troops of the allied armies to develop and strengthen field air defense. The tables of organization and equipment of air defense large units and units are being improved and their re-equipping with modern surface-to-air missile systems is proceeding. Training materiel and equipment resources are being established to retrain personnel on the new equipment.

At the same time, the inadequate state of supply of certain allied armies with respect to the KRUG, KUB, and STRELA-2 surface-to-air missile systems and automated control posts does not fully ensure the reliable covering of troop groupings.

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The MILITARY COUNCIL recommends:

1. That the implementation of practical measures directed toward the further strengthening of field air defense be continued by introducing surface-to-air missile systems of the KRUG, KUB, OSA, and STRELA types and the new P-18, P-19, and P-40 radar sets, by improving the tables of organization and equipment, and by raising the level of combat training of the troops.
2. That the national commands equip the Ground Forces air defense large units and units with automated means of control of the KRAB and PU-12 types in the interests of improving control.
3. That before 1 July 1978 the Staff of the Combined Armed Forces, together with the Commander of the Air Defense Forces of the Warsaw Pact Countries and the General (Main) Staffs, develop plans for the allocation of KRUG and KUB large units and units to perform combat alert duty and develop recommendations defining the procedure and organization for the performance of combat alert duty within the overall system of the air defense of the countries.

Concerning the given recommendations, Colonel General M. NICOLESCU expressed his special opinion, agreeing in principle with the recommendations except for item three.

"Colonel General Marin NICOLESCU, Deputy Minister of National Defense of the Socialist Republic of Romania, Member of the Military Council of the Combined Armed Forces, concurs with the draft recommendations concerning the fourth topic of the agenda in the new wording as received in Sofia, except for item three, because he considers that the development of a plan for the allocation of KRUG and KUB field air defense large units and units to perform combat alert duty lies within the authority of a national command.

He concurs with the initial wording of item three as previously received in Bucharest. Detailed views were expressed at the session."

All members of the Military Council expressed their disagreement with the views of Comrade M. NICOLESCU and unanimously emphasized the necessity of working out common principles on the allocation of ground forces air defense large units and units to perform combat alert duty, which will contribute to the strengthening of the unified air defense system of the

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Warsaw Pact countries.

V. HEARD: the information report of Commander-in-Chief of the Combined Armed Forces Marshal of the Soviet Union V. G. KULIKOV, "The Plan for the 1978 Sessions of the Military Council of the Combined Armed Forces".

(Information report is attached to the original copy of the Official Report.)

Participants: Members of the Military Council Comrades A. G. SEMERDZHIEV, Karolyi CSEMI, H. KESSLER, E. MOLCZYK, M. NICOLESCU, K. S. MOSKALENKO, K. RUSOV, I. A. FABRIKOV.

The Military Council members approved the plan and location for the conduct of the 1978 sessions of the Military Council as proposed by the Commander-in-Chief of the Combined Armed Forces.

The MILITARY COUNCIL recommends that the regular sessions be held in May and October 1978 with the following agenda:

MAY

1. The main trends in the development and preparation of NATO forces in the Western and Southwestern theaters of military operations.

Reports by the General Staffs of the Czechoslovak People's Army and the Army of the Socialist Republic of Romania.

2. Improvement of operational and tactical reconnaissance in the interests of increasing the effectiveness with which weapons and combat equipment are employed.

Report by the Staff of the Combined Armed Forces.

3. The status of the security and defense of airfields in the aviation of the Combined Armed Forces of the Warsaw Pact member states.

Reports by the General Staffs of the Bulgarian People's Army, Polish Armed Forces, and Czechoslovak People's Army.

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OCTOBER

1. Improving the combat readiness of the troops and naval forces of the allied armies in light of the requirements of the new directive of the Commander-in-Chief of the Combined Armed Forces.

Report by the Chief of Staff of the Combined Armed Forces.

2. Results of the 1978 operational and combat training and the tasks for 1979.

Report by the Staff of the Combined Armed Forces.

3. Proposals for the general prospective equipping of the troops and naval forces of the Combined Armed Forces with modern unified weapons in the years 1981 to 1985.

Report by the Technical Committee of the Combined Armed Forces.

4. Plan for the 1979 sessions of the Military Council of the Combined Armed Forces.

Information report of the Commander-in-Chief of the Combined Armed Forces.

The Seventeenth Session is to be held in the territory of the Hungarian People's Republic and the Eighteenth Session in the territory of the German Democratic Republic.

\* \* \*

The participants in the session, headed by the Chairman of the Military Council of the Combined Armed Forces Marshal of the Soviet Union V. G. KULIKOV, laid wreaths at the V. I. LENIN monument in Sofia. They visited the mausoleum of G. M. DIMITROV and laid wreaths.

In connection with the Sixtieth Anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution the members of the Military Council adopted the decision to send Greetings to the General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, Chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR Marshal of the Soviet Union Comrade L. I. BREZHNEV.

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Colonel General M. NICOLESCU expressed special views on this matter:

"Colonel General Marin NICOLESCU, Deputy Minister of National Defense of the Socialist Republic of Romania, Member of the Military Council of the Combined Armed Forces, considers that the sending of Greetings to Comrade L. I. BREZHNEV in connection with the Sixtieth Anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution exceeds his authority as well as the authority of the Military Council of the Combined Armed Forces.

Such undertakings are within the competence of the highest party and government leaders. Detailed views were expressed at the session."

The members of the Military Council unanimously and fully approved the text of the Greetings of the Military Council of the Combined Armed Forces addressed to the General Secretary of the Central Committee of the CPSU, Chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR Marshal of the Soviet Union Comrade Leonid Ilich BREZHNEV in connection with the Sixtieth Anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution which expressed profound gratitude for his unceasing concern for the enhancement of the defensive might of the Warsaw Pact member states, and for the development and deepening of comprehensive collaboration among the fraternal countries, their peoples, and their armies.

When coordinating the draft of the press communique, Colonel General M. NICOLESCU opposed the inclusion in it of the report of the greetings addressed to the General Secretary of the Central Committee of the CPSU, Chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR Marshal of the Soviet Union Comrade L. I. BREZHNEV in connection with the Sixtieth Anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution.

The members of the Military Council Comrades A. G. SEMERDZHIEV, Karolyi CSEMI, H. KESSLER, E. MOLCZYK, K. S. MOSKALENKO, K. RUSOV, and I. A. FABRIKOV unanimously approved the decision to print the text of the communique in full.

(Text of the press communique is attached to the original copy of the Official Report.)

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The Session of the Military Council was held in an atmosphere of fraternal unity, in a spirit of friendship, of close collaboration and collective leadership, which are characteristic of the relations of the allied armies. All of the recommendations adopted are of a constructive nature and directed toward the further enhancement of the combat readiness and the further improvement of the operational and combat training of the troops and navies of the Combined Armed Forces.

CHAIRMAN OF THE MILITARY COUNCIL

MARSHAL OF THE SOVIET UNION

signature

V. KULIKOV

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AGENDA OF THE SESSION

Of the Military Council of the Combined Armed Forces of the  
Warsaw Pact Member States  
for October 1977

Session No.	When held	Matters to be Discussed	Where held
Sixteenth	October	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Results of the operational and combat training of the Combined Armed Forces for 1977. Examination of the drafts of the Directive of the Commander-in-Chief of the Combined Armed Forces on Operational and Combat Training and the Plan of Combined Undertakings for 1978 (report of the Staff of the Combined Armed Forces).</li><li>2. The state of combat readiness of the troops and naval forces allocated to the Combined Armed Forces and ways of further improving it (report of the Staff of the Combined Armed Forces).</li><li>3. The status and prospects for further development of air reconnaissance (report of the General Staff of the Polish Armed Forces).</li></ol>	People's Republic of Bulgaria

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4. Progress in the implementation of the Decision of the Ninth Session of the Committee of Defense Ministers on "The unification and standardization of items of military equipment being adopted to equip the armies of the member states of the Warsaw Pact" (information report of the Technical Committee of the Combined Armed Forces).
5. Progress in carrying out the recommendations of the Tenth Session of the Military Council of the Combined Armed Forces in the armies of the Warsaw Pact countries concerning the matter of "The status of field air defense and the measures to further improve it" (information report of the General Staffs of the Hungarian People's Army and Czechoslovak People's Army).
6. Coordination of the plan for the 1978 sessions of the Military Council of the Combined Armed Forces (Commander-in-Chief of the Combined Armed Forces).

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RECOMMENDATIONS

of the Sixteenth Session of the Military Council of the Combined Armed Forces Concerning the First Topic of the Agenda: "The Results of the Operational and Combat Training of the Combined Armed Forces for 1977. The Examination of the Drafts of the Directive of the Commander-in-Chief of the Combined Armed Forces on Operational and Combat Training and of the Plan of Combined Undertakings for 1978"

The MILITARY COUNCIL, having examined the results of the operational and combat training of the Combined Armed Forces for 1977 and the tasks for 1978, notes that in 1977 the level of combat and mobilization readiness and of operational and combat training of the troops and naval forces was raised. The combat unity of the armies of the Warsaw Pact countries was broadened and strengthened. The tasks assigned in Directive No. 0077 of the Commander-in-Chief of the Combined Armed Forces were for the most part carried out. The combined undertakings provided for by plan were carried out.

The MILITARY COUNCIL approves the tasks specified by the Directive of the Commander-in-Chief of the Combined Armed Forces on operational and combat training and the plan of combined undertakings for 1978; and it considers that their fulfilment will contribute to the further enhancement of the combat readiness of the Combined Armed Forces and to the strengthening of the combat collaboration of the allied armies.

The MILITARY COUNCIL RECOMMENDS:

1. That the Staff of the Combined Armed Forces and the national commands take steps to accomplish fully and in a high-quality manner the tasks confronting the Combined Armed Forces in 1978. That they ensure all combined undertakings are prepared and carried out on a superior methodological and organizational level.

2. That in the course of the exercises of the allied troops and naval forces these troops and forces achieve the maximum utilization of their

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combat capabilities, that the most efficient methods of employing new weapons and combat equipment be sought, that there be a continuation of the development of a unity of views on the preparation, conduct, and all-round support of the combat actions of groupings of allied troops in the accomplishment of combined tasks.

3. That for the purposes of further raising the level of training of formation commanders (commanders) and staffs and of improving the method of conducting operational exercises, the Staff of the Combined Armed Forces during 1978:

-- prepare recommendations for a common method of work for formation commanders (commanders) and staffs in preparing an operation (battle) and during its course so as to introduce these recommendations into the actual operational and combat training of the allied armies;

-- study and synthesize the methods of preparing and conducting command-staff exercises in the allied armies, work out recommendations for the improvement of these methods, and deliver them to the national commands.

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RECOMMENDATIONS

of the Sixteenth Session of the Military Council of the Combined Armed Forces on the Subject: "The Status and Prospects for Further Development of Air Reconnaissance"

The MILITARY COUNCIL takes note of the fact that in the troops and navies of the allied armies that have been allocated to the complement of the Combined Armed Forces of the Warsaw Pact member states, some positive results have been achieved in the training of staffs and reconnaissance organs and units with respect to the organization and conduct of air reconnaissance. Existing reconnaissance aviation units and subunits, in their organizational structure and levels of combat and mobilization readiness, basically ensure that the tasks of air reconnaissance will be accomplished.

At the same time, reconnaissance aviation units and subunits are still equipped with a large amount of aviation equipment with inferior combat capabilities and also obsolete means for the processing, interpretation, and transmission of reconnaissance data.

Training resources in many units do not provide fully for the training of personnel in the conduct of reconnaissance.

The MILITARY COUNCIL recommends:

1. That the Staff of the Combined Armed Forces and the national commands devote greater attention to raising the combat and mobilization readiness of air reconnaissance forces and means, thereby achieving the timely and high-quality fulfilment of the undertakings that were outlined in the protocols for the development of the allied armies for the years 1976 to 1980 concerning the strengthening of reconnaissance aviation.

2. That provisions be made in the plans for the development of the Air Forces for the years 1981 to 1985 for the further development of

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reconnaissance aviation by activating additional units, by improving its organizational structure, and by equipping existing and newly activated units and subunits with new types of aircraft and helicopters fitted out with modern reconnaissance equipment.

3. That efforts be made to attain a reduction of the time required for the collection, processing, analysis, and transmission of reconnaissance data to interested staffs by equipping control posts with modern communications means, electronic computers, and devices for the automatic transmission of reconnaissance information.

4. That there be an improvement of the quality of the combat training of air reconnaissance organs and units as well as of the reconnaissance training of air staffs. That there be a more active development and bolder introduction of new and much more efficient tactical procedures and methods of conducting air reconnaissance using modern technical means. That exercises, practices, and competitions in air reconnaissance be conducted more frequently.

5. That the development of the training materiel resources of reconnaissance organs and of Air Forces aviation units and subunits be improved. That modern methods of training air reconnaissance personnel using trainers and other technical means be employed more energetically.

That the exchange of positive experience in organizing and conducting air reconnaissance be practiced more extensively.

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THESES

of the Information Report of the Deputy Commander-in-Chief of the Combined Armed Forces for Armament at the Sixteenth Session of the Military Council of the Combined Armed Forces Concerning the Third Topic: "Progress in the Implementation of the Decision of the Ninth Session of the Committee of Defense Ministers on the Unification and Standardization of Items of Military Equipment Being Adopted to Equip the Armies of the Member States of the Warsaw Pact"

The information report points out that the implementation of the Decision of the Ninth Session of the Committee of Defense Ministers is proceeding along two interrelated lines: the unification of military equipment and the standardization of its components, assemblies, and parts. Work is being carried out both on the scale of the Combined Armed Forces and also by way of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance.

It is reported that the assignment given by the Committee of Defense Ministers to carry out unification in the current five-year period in the course of implementing the Protocols for the development of the troops and naval forces allocated to the complement of the Combined Armed Forces for the years 1976 to 1980 and of implementing the intergovernmental agreements on mutual deliveries and the project plans, is being accomplished.

Data are cited on the totals of the planned weapons deliveries for the two years of the current five-year period, on the rates at which new equipment is being received in the armies and obsolete equipment is being replaced, and on the levels of unification that have been achieved in the individual types of weapons.

Emphasis is placed on the great importance of the subunits and units that have been established in the armies pursuant to the Decision of the Political Consultative Committee and equipped with the most modern types of weapons and military equipment in order to resolve problems involving future planning and increasing the level of unification.

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Attention is drawn to the effect that the work carried out in allied armies to modernize and develop new models of weapons and military equipment has had on increasing the level of the unification of weapons and equipment in the Combined Armed Forces.

Notice is taken of the shortcomings that have lowered the effectiveness of the unification measures, these shortcomings being related to the slow introduction into the troops of individual models of new weapons and the replacement of the obsolete ones, to delays in putting them into production, and to the non-fulfilment of modernization schedules and amounts.

It is reported that the Decision of the Committee of Defense Ministers on the working out and conduct of measures providing for an increased level of unification in the following five-year period has been fulfilled.

Mention is made of the types of weapons which should receive special attention when the armies are preparing to submit their recommendations on new types of weapons for the next five-year period.

Special attention is devoted to the measures related to the preparation of the lists of models of recommended weapons, to the organization of exhibition demonstrations, and to the working out of the proposals on the basic directions of development of the level of technical equipping of the troops and naval forces for the years 1981 to 1985, these measures being the basis for efficient practical activity when drafting the Protocols and plans for mutual deliveries.

There is a report of the undertakings to carry out the Decision of the Committee of Defense Ministers that are related to the establishment of a common system of military standardization at the level of the Warsaw Pact Organization.

It sets forth the results of the organizational measures having to do with the definition and coordination of the tasks and procedures for cooperation with the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance on the matters of military standardization.

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Special attention is devoted to the allocation of responsibilities among the military standardization organs of the national ministries of defense and the organs of the Combined Command and Council for Mutual Economic Assistance.

It reports the organizational measures related to the establishment of a directorate for unification and standardization in the Technical Committee and the tasks with which this directorate is charged.

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RECOMMENDATIONS

of the Sixteenth Session of the Military Council of the Combined Armed Forces Concerning the Third Topic: "Progress in the Implementation of the Decision of the Ninth Session of the Committee of Defense Ministers on the Unification and Standardization of the Items of Military Equipment Being Adopted to Equip the Armies of the Member States of the Warsaw Pact"

The Military Council takes under advisement the information report of the Deputy Commander-in-Chief of the Combined Armed Forces for Armament and notes that, in accordance with the Decision of the Ninth Session of the Committee of Defense Ministers, the allied armies and the Staff and Technical Committee of the Combined Armed Forces are accomplishing the tasks relative to the establishment of a common system of unification and standardization at the level of the Warsaw Pact Organization; they are determining the functional tasks and organizational structure, the forms of carrying out the tasks in the Combined Armed Forces, and also the principles of cooperation with the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance.

The Military Council recommends:

1. That the implementation of practical measures to ensure the fulfilment of the Decision of the Ninth Session of the Committee of Defense Ministers be continued.
2. That proposals for the general directions of development of the Combined Armed Forces be worked out by the Staff and Technical Committee based on further raising the level of equipping of the allied armies with unified weapons and military equipment.
3. That the Protocols for the development of the troops and naval forces and the plans for the new projects make provision for specific undertakings and requirements to ensure the requisite levels of unification and standardization of weapons and military equipment.

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4. That in the first half of 1978 the organizational measures to establish (strengthen) the unification and standardization organs be completed. That the Staff and Technical Committee, together with the ministries of national defense, draft the organizational and procedural documents on unification and standardization matters. That unification and standardization tasks be carried out in close cooperation with the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance.

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RECOMMENDATIONS

of the Sixteenth Session of the Military Council of the Combined Armed Forces Concerning the Fourth Topic of the Agenda: "Progress in Carrying Out the Recommendations of the Tenth Session of the Military Council on 'The Status of Field Air Defense and the Measures to Further Improve It'"

Having discussed the matter of the fulfilment of the recommendations of the Tenth Session of the Military Council regarding "The Status of Field Air Defense and Measures to Further Improve It", the MILITARY COUNCIL takes under advisement the information reports of the general staffs of the Hungarian and Czechoslovak People's Armies and notes that work is being carried out in the troops of the allied armies to develop and strengthen field air defense. The tables of organization and equipment of air defense large units and units are being improved and their re-equipping with modern surface-to-air missile systems is proceeding. Training materiel and equipment resources are being established to retrain personnel on the new equipment.

At the same time, the status of field air defense does not as yet fully satisfy modern requirements for providing reliable cover of troop groupings.

The MILITARY COUNCIL recommends:

1. That the implementation of practical measures directed toward the further strengthening of field air defense be continued by introducing new surface-to-air missile systems and radiotechnical means, by improving the tables of organization and equipment, and by raising the level of combat training of the troops.

2. That efforts be directed toward improving the control of air defense large units and units of the ground forces, based on the introduction and mastery of new automated means as well as on the

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modernization of the present control posts.

3. That for the purpose of enhancing the combat readiness of field air defense, of improving the organization of cooperation with the air defense forces of the country, as well as strengthening the air defense of the allied countries, KRUG and KUB surface-to-air missile large units and units be allocated to perform combat alert duty.

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