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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 : Directive on the Combat Readiness of the
Troops and Naval Forces Allocated to the
Warsaw Pact Armed Forces

SECTION TECHNOLOGY
DEFINITION

1. The enclosed Intelligence Information Special Report is a translation from Russian of a 1971 directive of the Commander-in-Chief of the Warsaw Pact Combined Armed Forces which defines the levels of combat readiness to be maintained by the troops and naval forces to be allocated to the Combined Armed Forces in wartime. The document describes in general terms the notification procedures and the steps to be taken in shifting to increased and full combat readiness levels in the armed forces as a whole and in the individual branches. The directive was to become effective in 1972, superseding a 1968 directive.

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.

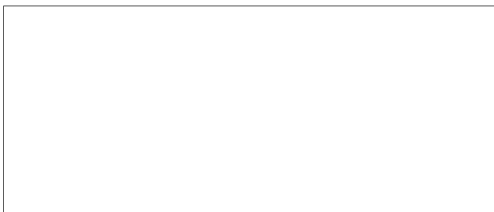


John N. McMahon

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Intelligence Information Special Report

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COUNTRY USSR/WARSAW PACT



DATE OF INFO. 27 December 1971

DATE 13 March 1978

SUBJECT

Directive of the Commander-in-Chief of the Combined Armed Forces on the Combat Readiness of the Troops and Naval Forces Allocated to the Combined Armed Forces

SOURCE Documentary

Summary:

The following report is a translation from Russian of a 1971 Combined Armed Forces directive which defines the levels of combat readiness to be maintained by the troops and naval forces to be allocated to the Combined Armed Forces in wartime. The document describes in general terms the notification procedures and the steps to be taken in shifting to increased and full combat readiness levels in the armed forces as a whole and in the individual branches. The directive was to become effective in 1972, superseding a 1968 directive.

End of Summary



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OF SPECIAL IMPORTANCE

DIRECTIVE
OF THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF THE COMBINED ARMED FORCES ON
THE COMBAT READINESS OF THE TROOPS AND NAVAL FORCES
ALLOCATED TO THE COMBINED ARMED FORCES
NO. 001

STAFF OF THE COMBINED ARMED FORCES

Moscow 1972

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OF SPECIAL IMPORTANCE
Copy No.

DIRECTIVE
of the Commander-in-Chief of the Combined Armed Forces on
the Combat Readiness of the Troops and Naval Forces
Allocated to the Combined Armed Forces
No. 001

27 December 1971

Moscow

1. In the Combined Armed Forces of the Warsaw Pact member states there are three levels of combat readiness for the troops: constant, increased, and full.

CONSTANT COMBAT READINESS -- the status of operational formations, large units, units, and control organs of all branches of the armed forces and branch arms in which they, while engaged in everyday routine activities, are in readiness to have combat tasks fulfilled by troops that are in constant readiness and to have full mobilization carried out by the troops that are at reduced strength.

Individual units, subunits, and ships perform combat alert duty and fulfil other tasks according to existing plans.

INCREASED COMBAT READINESS -- operational formations, large units, units, and control organs of all branches of the armed forces and branch arms carry out a number of undertakings as a result of which their combat and mobilization readiness is increased and in minimally short periods of time they are able to shift to a state of full combat readiness.

Troops are brought to increased combat readiness without the declaration of a combat alert.

The need to bring troops to increased combat readiness may arise under conditions of a tense military-political situation, when a probable enemy carries out actions which deliberately lead to the complication of the international situation and to the

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possible starting of military actions.

FULL COMBAT READINESS -- deployed operational formations, large units, units, and control organs of all branches of the armed forces and branch arms are brought to combat-ready status and are in highest readiness to fulfil combat tasks; troops at reduced (cadre) strength proceed to fully mobilize and carry out other measures according to existing plans.

Troops are brought to full combat readiness when there is an immediate threat of enemy attack and when the enemy has begun to carry out measures which indicate that the possible starting of combat actions is imminent.

Troops can be shifted to "full combat readiness" status both from a status of increased combat readiness and also directly from routine conditions (constant readiness).

Troops are brought to full combat readiness on the basis of a combat alert.

For troops (naval forces) which are to be brought to full combat readiness outside their garrisons (bases) as provided for by the plans, special concentration (dispersal) areas must be allocated, and for aviation and air defense troops, alternate airfields and sites must be allocated. It is advisable that each large unit (unit) have at least two concentration (dispersal) areas, and one of them ought to be the primary (secret) area, and the others alternate areas.

Troops are moved out to the primary (secret) concentration areas when they are brought to full combat readiness. Only a limited number of persons, those directly involved in working out the combat readiness plans, must know these areas. Alternate areas are used, as a rule, for practice in bringing troops to combat readiness.

For purposes of camouflage, individual formations, large units, and units can be brought to full combat readiness, without the declaration of a combat alert, in their permanent garrison locations.

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2. The Combined Armed Forces are shifted to increased and full combat readiness in implementation of the decisions of the governments of the Warsaw Pact member states or of the Political Consultative Committee by order (recommendation) of the Commander-in-Chief of the Combined Armed Forces.

The troops and naval forces of national armies that form the complement of the Combined Armed Forces can also be brought to any one of the levels of combat readiness by direction of their national military commands in conformity with the decision of their own governments.

Depending on the situation, all of the troops allocated to the Combined Armed Forces, as well as troops of one or several of the Warsaw Pact member states, or individual branches of the armed forces, can be brought to increased or full combat readiness.

The orders (recommendations) to bring troops (naval forces) allocated to the Combined Armed Forces to increased or full combat readiness will be communicated to the defense ministers or chiefs of the General (Main) Staffs by encrypted telegram or by prescribed signals over technical means of communication with subsequent backup by encrypted telegram.

The orders (recommendations) can also be transmitted orally by the Commander-in-Chief or the Chief of Staff of the Combined Armed Forces when they are in personal contact with the defense ministers or the chiefs of the General (Main) Staffs.

In the event of a surprise enemy attack, all of the troops allocated to the Combined Armed Forces for wartime are brought to full combat readiness by instructions of the national commands, down to large unit (separate unit) commanders, inclusively. Each national command specifies the command level granted the authority to bring troops to combat readiness.

Each allied army specifies by means of its directives the notification procedure for the troops and naval forces allocated to the Combined Armed Forces.

3. When increased combat readiness is put into effect, the following basic measures are implemented in the troops: ☆

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IN ALL BRANCHES OF THE ARMED FORCES:

-- in all control organs responsible generals and officers are placed on round-the-clock alert status and the duty shifts are reinforced. Operations groups are sent to the prepared control posts of the formations (large units) or to posts which will be designated;

-- the plans to bring troops to full combat readiness and the mobilization plans are refined. The preparatory measures to carry out mobilization are accomplished;

-- the readiness of communications means is verified. Round-the-clock alert status is instituted in the communications centers of all control posts. Round-the-clock manning and the receiving operation of radio means are established on the radio nets and radio links which under routine conditions operated according to scheduled sessions or performed communications checks only. All communications means continue to operate adhering to their customary (everyday) routine. Additional communications channels and individual radio transmitters are taken over from the ministries of communications (ministries of posts and telegraph);

-- the officer personnel are fitted out completely and, depending on billeting conditions, they can be shifted to barracks status;

-- the large units and units located at training grounds and in exercise areas return to their garrisons or to areas that will be indicated to them;

-- the personnel on temporary duty or leave can be recalled to their units (facilities);

-- the forces and means on alert are reinforced and perform duty in full combat readiness;

-- the security and defense of garrisons, staffs, and key installations are reinforced;

-- the measures for protecting troops against means of mass destruction are organized. The radiation observation and warning system is made ready. Continuous meteorological observation is taken;

-- for the troops in constant readiness, reserves of ammunition, POL, rations, and other types of materiel and equipment stored in depots are loaded onto motor transport, and the weapons and equipment in stand-by storage and maintained in emergency reserves are put into combat-ready condition;

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- preparations are made to receive personnel from the reserves and transport from the national economy;
- in those allied armies where mobilization measures are called for upon the introduction of increased combat readiness, these are implemented as prescribed by national directives;
- the rear services units and facilities get ready to issue materiel and equipment to the troops from the operational and emergency reserves and to disperse them among the field branches;
- measures are taken to speed up repair and routine maintenance jobs, and first of all those for surface-to-air missile systems, combat aircraft, ships, and tanks.

Large units and units of all branches of the armed forces, depending on the situational conditions, conduct their practical training exercises within their military posts or in the vicinity of the posts after they have carried out the prescribed measures for increased combat readiness.

Additionally, in the armed forces branches the following supplementary steps are taken:

IN THE GROUND FORCES:

a) in the large units and units in constant readiness:

- missile and missile technical units prepare the missile delivery vehicles and check the monitoring and technical equipment. Where specified, the rocket troop control posts are made ready for work and the final topogeodetic preparation of the siting areas is carried out. The operational-tactical missile large units and units that have been designated to accomplish first-priority tasks can, upon special orders, occupy their concentration areas;
- in border military districts (armies, corps) the reconnaissance and security of the state borders are intensified. Surface-to-air missile units are brought to Readiness No. 2. Antiaircraft artillery is deployed to cover the troops.

b) Reduced-strength and training large units and units take out of stand-by storage and make combat-ready the weapons and equipment required by the peacetime T/O&E for the regular personnel complement.

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The reserves of materiel and equipment required to provide for the combat effectiveness of the regular personnel complement, for their protection against means of mass destruction, and for the performance of the first-priority tasks of complete mobilization, are loaded onto motor transport.

IN THE FORCES OF THE UNIFIED AIR DEFENSE SYSTEM OF THE WARSAW PACT COUNTRIES:

The time limits for bringing the air defense forces of the countries to increased combat readiness must not exceed one hour 30 minutes.

During this period:

-- in all surface-to-air missile and anti-aircraft artillery large units and units 50 percent of the surface-to-air missile and anti-aircraft artillery battalions are placed on combat alert status; *

-- in the surface-to-air missile battalions having fueling means, up to one unit of fire of missiles that have been mated and charged, but not filled with the propellant components, is stockpiled. For the missile battalions that do not have fueling means, this number of missiles is stockpiled in the technical battalions;

-- the radiotechnical subunits kept at Readiness No. 3 are shifted to Readiness No. 2. The radiotechnical means having the function of establishing the reserve radar coverage are made ready for relocation and those having the function of reinforcing the radar coverage at low altitudes are moved out with communications means to the alternate positions in conformity with existing plans;

-- the VOZDUKh-1 equipment in the units and subunits not on alert, as well as in the units on alert with radars switched off, are kept in readiness to begin combat operation within a period that does not exceed 20 minutes;

-- the radio reconnaissance subunits shift to round-the-clock alert status;

-- the radio jamming subunits set up additional means at the sites.

The time limits for the shift to combat alert status of the additionally allocated surface-to-air missile and technical

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battalions at reduced and full complements are established by the national commands.

The Commander of the Air Defense Forces of the Warsaw Pact member states issues the orders as to the number of means on alert, on the procedure for their performance of combat alert duty, as well as on the shift to the highest levels of readiness.

IN THE AIR FORCES AND IN THE AVIATION OF THE AIR DEFENSE FORCES:

- operations groups of the staffs are sent to the command posts of the cooperating operational formations;
- in all types of aviation the combat tasks are refined and aircraft (helicopters) are sheltered and dispersed on the airfields in readiness for the combat mission;
- in each fighter air regiment one of the squadrons is placed on combat alert status at Readiness No. 2;
- preparatory measures are taken to disperse air units to the alternate airfields, and first of all, those units based at airfields not having reinforced concrete shelters;
- the komendaturas of the separate air technical battalions and the advance teams of the air regiments are made ready to depart for the dispersal airfields. If their rebasing time exceeds one hour 30 minutes, they depart for these airfields when increased combat readiness is declared;
- the required forces and means designated for the preparation of new airfields in the areas specified in peacetime, are made ready to move out. In case these airfields are a considerable distance away, these forces and means move to the areas beforehand, however, they begin the preparation (construction) upon special instructions from the national commands;
- flights for instructional and combat training are made in the regiments by each squadron in turn.

IN THE NAVY:

- large units and units are dispersed within the boundaries of their permanent basing points;
- there is an augmentation of the security of the naval bases and ship dispersal areas, of reconnaissance, and of all types of sea surveillance; ship patrols are sent out and control

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minesweeping of channels is carried out;

-- combat ships, and air units, coastal missile and artillery units, and other naval units are replenished to full scale with all types of reserves, including missiles, but mines are replenished upon special instructions. The number of forces on combat duty and on alert is increased; C.S.

-- the reserve ships and units specified by the plans are transferred to the complement of forces in constant readiness within the time limits prescribed by the commanders of the national navies;

-- naval aircraft (helicopters) are sheltered and dispersed / on airfields in readiness for the combat mission;

-- the merchant fleet organizations owning ships which are to be fully mobilized are notified and also the location of these / ships is pinpointed.

STATIONARY REAR SERVICES FACILITIES (arsenals, bases, depots, repair enterprises, hospitals, etc.) get ready to continuously support and service the troops and to receive materiel from industry.

Materiel-technical reserves are prepared for dispersal. The reserves which are needed first for issue to the troops are loaded onto the available motor transport.

4. In bringing troops and naval forces to full combat readiness the following principal measures are carried out:

IN ALL BRANCHES OF THE ARMED FORCES:

-- troops and naval forces are alerted by a combat alert signal and moved out, if so specified, from their permanent garrisons (military posts, bases) to their main areas of concentration (dispersal) or to their combat assignment areas. Air defense aviation and troops, if other actions have not been specified for them, move out with a portion of their forces to alternate airfields and, if they have no primary sites that have been prepared from the engineer standpoint, to alternate sites. The dispersal of aviation is carried out in the light of the availability at the airfields of protective structures for aircraft. Troops (naval forces) kept in constant readiness are brought up to full wartime numerical strength in personnel and transport means. The control organs, large units, units, and

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facilities at reduced (cadre) strength, as well as newly activated units and facilities that have been allocated to the wartime Combined Armed Forces complement, are fully mobilized and brought to full combat readiness in the time limits and appointed areas (points) in compliance with mobilization plans;

-- the control organs of operational formations, large units, and units go out to the prepared command posts. At the command posts the round-the-clock alert of full-strength combat crew shifts is organized. The alternate command posts are made fully combat ready to assume control over the troops;

-- the tasks of the large units and units are refined;

-- the personnel on temporary duty and on leave are recalled to their units (if this was not done in the period of increased readiness);

-- operations groups with communications means are sent out to the cooperating control organs of differing national affiliation in conformity with the existing plans or arrangements;

-- communications units and subunits get ready for combat operation. Additional communications channels allocated in compliance with existing plans are taken over.

The operation of radio means in the transmitting mode from the field control posts of the ground forces and from the alternate command posts of the air defense forces, air forces and navy is authorized upon the instructions of national commands;

-- the troop personnel are fitted out according to wartime norms;

-- in conformity with existing plans, ground, ship, and aircraft radiotechnical means (stations) are retuned from their peacetime operating and training frequencies (codes) to the wartime alternate frequencies (codes);

-- the mobilization measures specified for this period are carried out simultaneously with the other measures for full combat readiness.

In addition to these measures, the following ones are carried out in the branches of the armed forces:

IN THE GROUND FORCES:

-- missile large units and units are moved out to the siting areas. The engineer preparation of the elements of the battle

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formation is accomplished. Upon the receipt of special warheads, launching batteries are shifted to Readiness No. 3 and the batteries on alert are shifted to Readiness No. 2;

-- surface-to-air missile units and antiaircraft artillery units deploy and remain in readiness to repel enemy air attacks;
 -- the specific time limits for bringing the deployed large units (units) to full combat readiness are established by the national command based on the time of the departure from their military posts, the movement to the concentration area, and the accomplishment of the necessary measures in the concentration area. On the average this time must include:

-- for the departure of large units from their military posts after a combat alert is declared: in summer -- 40 to 60 minutes; in winter -- 60 to 80 minutes;
 -- for the march to the concentration area -- 20 kilometers per hour;
 -- for the accomplishment of measures in the concentration area -- one to 1.5 hours.

IN THE FORCES OF THE UNIFIED AIR DEFENSE SYSTEM OF THE WARSAW PACT COUNTRIES:

-- the time limits for shifting the forces of the unified air defense system of the countries from constant readiness status to full combat readiness must not exceed two hours;

-- at central command posts and command posts the round-the-clock combat alert duty of full-strength shifts of combat crews is established;

-- all surface-to-air missile and antiaircraft artillery large units and units are brought to Readiness No. 1 with the reserve of fully prepared missiles that is available at the launching sites. In line with this, the time limits for battalions to make the transition to the opening of fire must not exceed:

-- for battalions on alert -- five to 11 minutes;
 -- for battalions not on alert which have reduced combat crews -- not more than 30 minutes.

Subsequently, after the surface-to-air missile and antiaircraft artillery large units and units have been shifted to full combat readiness and depending on the situation, the

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surface-to-air missile (artillery) battalions are kept at Readiness No. 1 or 2;

-- the cadre-strength surface-to-air missile battalions and the battalions that have their equipment packed up deploy at the primary launching sites in conformity with the deployment plans;

-- the reserve of fully prepared missiles at the rocket troop sites is brought up to 1.5 to two units of fire within the time limits specified by existing plans;

-- in the radiotechnical troops, the radar coverage is increased by increasing the means on alert. Radiotechnical subunits are shifted from Readiness No. 2 and No. 3 to Readiness No. 1;

-- a concealed (reserve) radar field is set up;

-- the VOZDUKh-1 equipment in the units and subunits not on alert is shifted to "on-alert operation";

-- the radio jamming units at full strength deploy at the primary sites and get ready for combat operation.

IN THE AIR FORCES AND IN THE AVIATION OF THE AIR DEFENSE FORCES:

-- air units and subunits are made ready for immediate takeoff to fulfil assigned combat tasks or for flights to the dispersal airfields;

-- all fighter air regiments are brought to Readiness No. 1. Subsequently, depending on the situation, the squadrons are kept at Readiness No. 1, 2, or 3;

-- the air regiments designated to reinforce the key axes in compliance with existing plans for the use of the air defense forces of the Warsaw Pact member states and with the plan of cooperation, get ready for rebasing;

-- the alternate airfields, to which aviation is dispersed according to plans, are made ready so that within 30 minutes after the arrival of the komendaturas of air technical battalions and of the advance teams of air units they are ready to receive and support the aircraft;

-- the air units (air squadrons) that are to receive special warheads upon the signal (instruction) of the General (Main) Staff, fly to the airfields assigned by the plans, where they receive the special warheads and then suspend them on the delivery aircraft;

-- the air technical units prepare the second unit of fire of aircraft projectiles and "air-to-air" missiles;

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- the dispersal and sheltering of reserves of the main types of air technical equipment and of rations is carried out from the permanent basing airfields;
- the following times for bringing air units to full combat readiness are prescribed:

From constant to full combat readiness:

- fighter air regiments
 - with: MIG-21 and MIG-19 -- 60 to 80 minutes;
 - MIG-17 -- 50 to 60 minutes;
- fighter-bomber air regiments
 - with: SU-7 -- 70 to 90 minutes;
 - MIG-17 -- 50 to 60 minutes;
- air reconnaissance units
 - with: MIG-21R -- 60 to 80 minutes;
 - MIG-15 (17)R -- 50 to 60 minutes;
 - IL-28R -- 80 to 90 minutes;
- helicopter units -- 60 to 80 minutes.

From increased combat readiness to full readiness:

- fighter air regiments -- 10 to 12 minutes;
- fighter-bomber air regiments -- 12 to 15 minutes;
- air reconnaissance units -- 12 to 15 minutes;
- helicopter units -- 15 to 20 minutes.

The need to change the time limits for bringing air regiments to combat readiness is determined by the national command taking into account the training of the personnel, the available means of support, the distance separating a garrison from the airfield, and the preceding level of readiness.

IN THE NAVY:

- the time for bringing the main forces of the navies to full combat readiness from constant readiness must not exceed 12 to 15 hours, and from increased readiness to full readiness it must not exceed two to three hours;
- in fleets, large units, and units the plans for all types

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of defense and protection are put into effect. Ships move out of their permanent basing points to the primary dispersal areas and get ready for immediate departure to fulfil assigned tasks;

-- the combat duty forces at sea are augmented. The special navigation routine for ships is put into effect. The recall of ships from distant areas may be carried out;

-- the ships of the reserve that are in mothballs and those to be drafted from the national economy are dispersed at the basing points, fully manned, armed, and put into service. The time limits for their transfer to the complement of forces on constant readiness are set by the plans of the national commands;

-- operations groups are sent to the staffs of the cooperating large units.

IN REAR SERVICES UNITS AND FACILITIES:

-- materiel and equipment and emergency reserves are issued to the units and large units. The reserves of central, military district, and army depots are dispersed and sheltered.

STATIONARY FACILITIES (arsenals, bases, depots, repair enterprises, and hospitals) are brought to full combat readiness in their permanent stations with the subsequent evacuation or dispersal of reserves in conformity with the plans. Units and facilities are fully mobilized as prescribed by the plans.

5. In the event full combat readiness is put into effect directly from a constant combat readiness status, line units will simultaneously implement the measures for increased combat readiness if this is necessary.

6. Other measures needed to bring the troops to one or another level of combat readiness are defined by the national commands and indicated in the directives of the respective defense ministers (Armed Forces).

The national commands also dictate the specific time limits for shifting large units, units, and facilities to increased or full combat readiness.

7. When it is necessary to covertly build up forces in theaters of military operations and to gradually bring the Combined Armed Forces to increased levels of combat readiness,

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covert partial mobilization can be carried out under the guise of exercises and assemblies with the deployment of individual formations, large units, and units until full combat readiness is put into effect.

The scale and sequence of the measures to be undertaken in this case are determined in every instance by the national commands in coordination with the Commander-in-Chief of the Combined Armed Forces.

8. The following planning procedure is established for the purpose of bringing the Combined Armed Forces to combat readiness:

For all formations, large units, separate units, staffs, and facilities in constant readiness a plan for bringing them to increased and full combat readiness is worked out.

In the large units, units, and facilities at reduced strength, all measures for bringing them to combat readiness are indicated in the mobilization plans and a unified plan for bringing the large units (units) to combat and mobilization readiness is drawn up.

Proper secrecy and security must be ensured for the plans for bringing troops to combat readiness.

9. In working out the questions of bringing troops to increased and full combat readiness, the camouflaging of the measures to be implemented must be strictly observed, paying special attention to security of control and first of all, to the operating routine of the radio means and to the accomplishment of deception measures.

10. The monitoring of the combat readiness of the troops (naval forces) allocated to the Combined Armed Forces is carried out according to the plan of the Combined Command, which is coordinated with the defense ministers of the Warsaw Pact member states, and according to the plans of the national defense ministries.

11. This Directive becomes effective on [words missing] 1972.

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12. The Directive of the Commander-in-Chief of the Combined Armed Forces of the Warsaw Pact member states of 18 November 1968 is to be considered no longer effective.

/signed/

I. YAKUBOVSKIY
Marshal of the Soviet Union
Commander-in-Chief of the Combined
Armed Forces of the Warsaw Pact
Member States

/signed/

SHEMENKO
General of the Army
Chief of Staff of the Combined
Armed Forces of the
Warsaw Pact Member States



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