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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

18 July 1979

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Director of Central Intelligence
FROM : John H. Stein
Acting Deputy Director for Operations
SUBJECT : Letter from the Warsaw Pact Commander-in-Chief to
Defense Ministers on Drafting a Wartime Statute to
Govern the Combined Armed Forces

1. The enclosed Intelligence Information Special Report is a translation of a TOP SECRET December 1978 letter from the Commander-in-Chief of the Combined Armed Forces to Warsaw Pact defense ministers which sets the structure, content, and preparation deadlines for a proposed statute to govern the forces and their command in wartime. The statute, which is to be ready for consideration by the Committee of Defense Ministers later this year, tentatively will consist of at least five sections defining the wartime composition and mission of the Combined Armed Forces and Combined Naval Fleets, the roles of the theater high commands and the national commands, as well as logistical and technical support arrangements.

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 H. Stein

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Intelligence Information Special Report

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COUNTRY USSR/WARSAW PACT

FIRDB - 312/01790-79

DATE OF
INFO. 15 December 1978

DATE 18 July 1979

SUBJECT

Letter from the Warsaw Pact Commander-in-Chief to Defense Ministers on Drafting a Wartime Statute to Govern the Combined Armed Forces

SOURCE Documentary

Summary:

The following report is a translation from Russian of a TOP SECRET letter from the Commander-in-Chief of the Combined Armed Forces to Warsaw Pact defense ministers setting the structure, content, and preparation deadlines to be observed in drafting a statute to govern the forces and their command in wartime. The statute, which is to be ready for consideration by the Committee of Defense Ministers in late 1979, tentatively will consist of at least five sections defining the wartime composition and mission of the Combined Armed Forces and Combined Naval Fleets, the theater high commands, their functions, and relationships with the national commands, as well as logistical and technical support arrangements. The defense ministers were requested to provide their input by 1 March 1979.

End of Summary

Comment:

The decision of the Political Consultative Committee which is cited in the letter was disseminated in [redacted] Previous discussion of the proposed wartime statute was reported in [redacted]

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15 December 1978

Esteemed Comrade Minister:

By a decision of the Warsaw Pact member states that was adopted at the meeting of the Political Consultative Committee on 23 November 1978, the Commander-in-Chief of the Combined Armed Forces and the defense ministers of the allied countries are jointly charged with working out in 1979 a draft "Statute on the Combined Armed Forces of the Warsaw Pact Member States and Their Organs of Command" for wartime.

As is known, a preliminary exchange of opinions on the main directions of the draft Statute took place in Sofia in June of this year at a meeting of the chiefs of the general (main) staffs of the allied armies. During the meeting some views were expressed on both the structure and the content of the draft Statute that are shared by the leadership of a majority of the allied armies. We believe that in keeping with these views, it would be advisable to include the following in the draft Statute:

General provisions: These should emphasize that the Warsaw Pact member states, in view of the continuing existence of the imperialist threat to the gains of socialism, are firmly resolved to improve to the utmost the military organization and combat readiness of the Combined Armed Forces, which must be able to repel aggression by the NATO bloc in Europe. These provisions should also mention the main principles of the command of the Combined Armed Forces in wartime, particularly the unified Supreme High Command and High Commands in the Western and Southwestern theaters of military operations, as specified by the decision of the Warsaw Pact member states that was adopted at the 23 November meeting of the Political Consultative Committee.

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First section. The wartime Combined Armed Forces of the Warsaw Pact member states. It is proposed that this section provide a definition of what is understood by wartime Combined Armed Forces and indicate their composition, mission, and the procedure and time for placing them in direct subordination to the High Commands of the Combined Armed Forces in the theaters of military operations. This section could also set forth the system for using the national reserves established for wartime by each Warsaw Pact state.

Second section. The functions, authority and responsibilities of the High Commands of the Combined Armed Forces in the theaters of military operations. The idea here is to set forth the main functions of the High Commands of the Combined Armed Forces in the theaters of military operations and to indicate the authority and responsibilities of the Commander-in-Chief, his deputies, and Staff, and those of the commanders and chiefs of the branch arms and services.

One probably could also specify in this section a time for deploying the Staff and other control organs of the Commander-in-Chief of the Combined Armed Forces in the theaters of military operations that allows them to assume command of the coalition troops and naval forces in a theater of military operations.

Third section. This section should expound on matters of cooperation between the High Commands of the Combined Armed Forces in the theaters of military operations and the national commands of the Warsaw Pact member states. In this section it is advisable to define the principles of cooperation between the High Commands of the Combined Armed Forces in the theaters of military operations and the national commands and to specify the role and place of the operations groups to be made available on a reciprocal basis from the High Commands of the Combined Armed Forces in the theaters of military operations and the national ministries of defense, and of the representatives of the Commander-in-Chief of the Combined Armed Forces in the allied armies which exist in peacetime. The section should set forth the main functions of the national commands of the allied countries with respect to the troops and naval forces made directly subordinate to the Commanders-in-Chief of the Combined Armed Forces in the theaters of military operations.

Fourth section. We believe that this section should define matters of the command of the Combined Naval Fleets in the Baltic and Black seas: their composition, mission, and the procedure and time for resubordinating the forces of the allied navies to the commanders of the Combined Naval Fleets.

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Fifth section. Rear services and technical support of the troops and naval forces allocated to the Combined Armed Forces in the theaters of military operations. This section should indicate the role of the High Commands of the Combined Armed Forces in the theaters of military operations and the national commands in providing materiel support to groupings of the Combined Armed Forces from national resources, providing transportation support to ensure uninterrupted military deliveries, and organizing medical and technical support. It should indicate the nature of cooperation with the general (main) staffs of the allied armies on matters of accommodating the rear services of Combined Armed Forces groupings on the territories of the allied countries, allocating transportation lines of all types, maneuvering reserves, restoring the combat effectiveness of the rear services, and using local resources for repairing equipment.

It is not ruled out that in the course of working out and coordinating the draft Statute, other matters or sections may arise that should be included in this document.

We believe that it is necessary, after having allocated specially appointed generals, admirals, and officers for the work, to proceed immediately with working out the draft Statute.

It is proposed that the following dates be established for the timely preparation of the draft Statute:

- a) Preparation of the structural plan of the draft Statute and its coordination -- prior to 15 March [1979].
- b) Writing of the main sections of the draft Statute -- prior to 1 June.
- c) Preparation of the draft Statute and its preliminary coordination with the defense ministers of the allied countries -- June to July.
- d) Final work on the draft Statute and its preparation for discussion at the 12th session of the Committee of Defense Ministers -- August to October, 1979.

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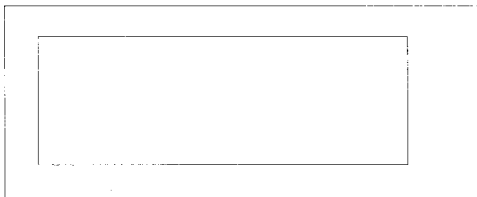
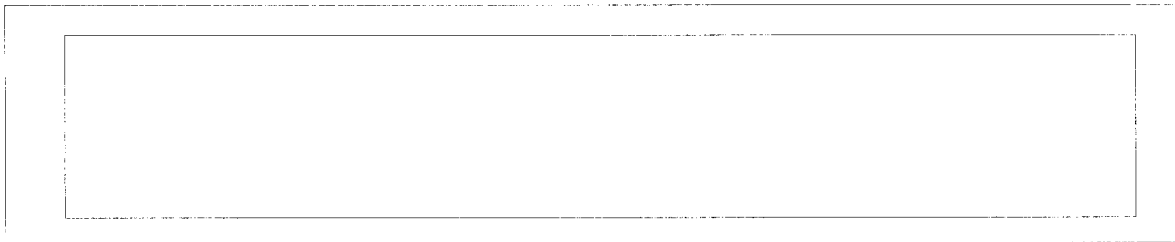
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I would be grateful to you, Comrade Minister, if you would send me your suggestions on the structure and content of the draft Statute by 1 March 1979.

Respectfully,

/signature/

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



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