

*Communiqué on the Session of the Political Consultative Committee  
of the Warsaw Treaty Powers  
28 January 1956 \**

The Political Consultative Committee of the states that are parties to the Treaty of Friendship, Co-operation and Mutual Assistance, concluded in Warsaw on May 14, 1955, met in Prague on January 27 and 28.

On the proposal of Marshal of the Soviet Union I. S. Konev, Commander-in-Chief of the unified armed forces, the statute of the unified command was considered and approved, and organisational matters connected with the activities of the unified armed forces of the Warsaw Treaty powers were settled.

The committee accepted the proposal of the delegation of the German Democratic Republic that, upon the establishment of a national people's army of the German Democratic Republic, its armed contingents, would be incorporated in the unified armed forces. It was decided also that the Minister of National Defence of the German Democratic

\* *For a Lasting Peace, For a People's Democracy* (Bucharest), 3 February 1956.

Republic would, in accordance with agreed procedure, be one of the assistants to the Commander-in-Chief of the unified forces of the Warsaw Treaty powers.

In conformity with the Warsaw Treaty, which provides that the parties shall consult each other on international issues affecting their common interests, the Political Consultative Committee reviewed the international situation and reached conclusions which are set forth in the Declaration of the Warsaw Treaty powers, which is signed by the representatives of these countries. The text of the Declaration is published separately.

Certain organisational matters connected with the work of the Political Consultative Committee were considered.

It was decided that the Political Consultative Committee would meet as the occasion arises, but not less than twice a year, to consider matters arising from the implementing of the Warsaw Treaty.

Representatives of each state on the committee will take turns in presiding at meetings in the course of the calendar year.

The following auxiliary bodies are to be set up in Moscow under the Political Consultative Committee;

- a) The Standing Commission, charged with the elaboration of recommendations on foreign policy issues;
- b) The Joint Secretariat, to be formed of representatives of all the countries that are parties to the Warsaw Treaty.