

Congress resolution on military policy

The following is the full text of the resolution of the 28th Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union on the main aspects of the Party's military policy at the present stage:

1. The CPSU considers consolidation of peace the most important area of foreign policy and will in every way facilitate the processes of relieving international tensions. The Party's military policy, based on the new political thinking, is in keeping with the Soviet Union's long-term interests.

Having made an exhaustive study of the state and prospects of the politico-military situation, Congress declares that so long as guarantees of the irreversible positive changes have not emerged, the military danger to the USSR continues to exist. In the circumstances, it is still one of the most important tasks of the people as a whole, the Party, and the state, to observe the constitutional duties related to the defence of the socialist homeland, buttressing and maintaining the country's security and defence capability at the level of dependable and sensible sufficiency.

The CPSU stands for the maintenance and consistent development of the defensive Soviet military doctrine and reaffirms its readiness to assist in shaping an all-embracing system of international security, expanding politico-military co-operation for this purpose, and advancing towards a world without wars and violence.

The Party believes that fulfilment of the defensive tasks should work to prevent wars, secure the inviolability of the state borders of the USSR, rule out impingements on the country's sovereignty, and, in the event of an outside aggression, guarantee that it is repulsed, the independence and territorial integrity of the country defended, and just peace restored.

2. Party Congress notes that the armed forces of the USSR are commendably doing their constitutional duty of defending the socialist state. Communists, servicemen of the Army and Navy, the border troops of the State Security Committee, and the internal troops of the USSR Ministry of Internal Affairs, are loyal to their nation and its socialist option.

No few acute problems have accumulated in the Army and Navy, including those of performing functions foreign to them, bringing units up to full strength, ensuring professional training, obtaining new types of armaments and vehicles of due quality and in requisite numbers, maintaining discipline, remedying the imperfections of the organisation and personnel structure, and settling the question of the inferior social protection of servicemen and their families. This is creating negative sentiment, tension, and disaffection.

The CPSU emphasises the extraordinary socio-political importance and honourable nature of military service. Congress instructs all Party branches and all communists to uphold by all possible means the authority of the Soviet Armed Forces, heightening the prestige of military service, and protecting the honour, dignity, life and health of servicemen.

Congress declares that the CPSU is in favour of centralised leadership in matters of defence, security and development of the armed forces, based on single union-wide legislation.

The armed forces of the USSR must follow the principles of one-man leadership, extraterritoriality, a multinational army recruited on a mixed principle which combines universal military service with voluntary enlistment under contract, social justice and equality of all

servicemen and reservists before the law, and their use only for legitimate purposes, as entrenched in the Constitution of the USSR.

It is necessary to work out and to raise to a qualitatively new level the forms and methods of Party influence on preparing the young people for and their service in the Soviet Armed Forces. To improve work on patriotic and internationalist education and the readiness of the Soviet citizens to perform the sacred duty of guaranteeing the security of their homeland. To raise the role of the local Party branches in this field.

3. The CPSU holds that the revolutionary renovation of Soviet society and processes in inter-state relations call for the implementation of the military reform stage by stage on the basis of USSR laws.

The reform is to ensure the scientifically substantiated level of the defence potential in keeping with the principle of sensible sufficiency, a long-term military-technological policy and the equipment of the Army and Navy with modern high-quality weapons and military technology on the basis of latest scientific, technical and technological achievements, the optimisation of the structure and governing bodies of the Soviet Armed Forces, the restructuring of personnel policy, democratisation of military service relations, the transformation of the system of recruiting and training the personnel, its higher professionalism and better training of the reserve and enhanced legislation on Soviet citizens' active service.

Congress deems it necessary to speed up the adoption of the defence law and the law on the conversion of defence enterprises, taking into account the development of their scientific, experimental and production base depending on external factors and also the target-oriented government programme to guarantee social security and legal protection of the servicemen, members of their families, reservists and the retired military. Primarily part of the forces and means released due to the reduction of the armed forces and of the defence spending should be used for the above purposes.

Congress considers it to be top priority tasks to improve the material and social situation of

the military personnel, to ensure well-appointed housing for the servicemen and to introduce compensation measures in the conditions of growing prices and inflation.

4. A fundamental trend of the military reform is the radical reorganisation of the entire system of Party and political work in the Soviet Armed Forces, including the transformation of the existing structure, the definition of the functions of the Party branches and political bodies, their adjustment to the new tasks and conditions, democratisation of inter-Party relations, and development of a new moral climate, a high level of discipline, legality and comradeship.

Political work in the armed forces of the USSR should be based on the creative development of the ideas of Marx, Engels and Lenin and the achievements of world socio-political thought and culture. The CPSU will strive to enhance its role of a political leader in the Army and Navy and to consolidate all the healthy and progressive forces in the interests of raising the country's defence capability. Congress comes out against depoliticising the armed forces.

The military-political bodies of the Army and Navy work in keeping with the country's defence policy and the USSR Constitution and aim at giving political, military, moral and legal education to the servicemen in a spirit of loyalty to the socialist ideals, the unity of the Army and the people, patriotism, friendship among the Soviet peoples, internationalism, vigilance and constant readiness to defend the homeland.

It is necessary to create and adjust the mechanism of work of Party branches in the Army and Navy and of their effective interaction with other mass political organisations acting in the country within the framework of Soviet laws to translate into life the Party military policy.

Congress holds that the armed forces of the USSR should be a reliable defender of the homeland and a factor for averting war and preserving peace. Concern for the careful preservation and improvement of everything that has been gained in strengthening the defences is the patriotic and internationalist duty of every communist and the cause of the entire people. □

Presidential decree on demonstration of television and radio

"THE democratisation of society, the growing role of sovereign union republics and the councils of people's deputies, and the development of genuine political pluralism call for a cardinal change in the nature of the country's television and radio broadcasting," says a decree issued by President Mikhail Gorbachev.

The decree, circulated in Moscow on July 15, emphasises that "it is particularly important that television and radio in every way promote the consolidation of society, strengthen its stability and tranquillity, and ensure the protection of state interests, the humanisation of law and order, and inter-ethnic concord."

"These goals call for the maintenance and development of television and radio as a nationwide structure," the decree points out.

The decree recognises the need to determine a legal basis for the activities of television and radio broadcasting under new conditions and recommends that the USSR Supreme Soviet

adopt an appropriate law.

Provision is made for an extension of the rights and powers of republican, territorial and regional television and radio committees.

The decree envisages the creation of subdivisions within the television and radio committees to be in charge of the provision of information to local government bodies and registration, under licence agreements, television centres and studios which the councils of people's deputies at all levels, public organisations and parties have the right to open relying on their own financial and technical resources.

At the same time the document points out that "considering the importance of maintaining the nationwide system of television and radio, any acts taken by republican, territorial and regional bodies without coordination with the USSR Council of Ministers and aimed at changing legal or property status of the operating subdivisions of the USSR State Committee for Television and Broadcasting shall be considered invalid."

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