

TREATY OF FRIENDSHIP, COOPERATION AND MUTUAL ASSISTANCE
SIGNED IN WARSAW BY ALBANIA, BULGARIA, CZECHOSLOVAKIA,
THE GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC, HUNGARY, POLAND, ROMANIA
AND THE USSR, ON 14 MAY 1955

Preamble

The contracting parties

Confirm once again their striving for the creation of a system of collective security in Europe based on the participation of all European States, irrespective of their social or state structure which would make it possible to unite their efforts in the interest of insuring peace in Europe.

Taking into consideration at the same time the situation which has arisen in Europe as the result of the ratification of the Paris agreements envisaging the formation of a new military alignment in the form of the West European Union with the participation of Western Germany, which is being remilitarized, and her inclusion in the North Atlantic bloc, which increases the danger of a new war and creates a threat to the national security of peace-loving States;

Being convinced of the fact that in these circumstances peace-loving States in Europe must take measures necessary to safeguard their security and in the interests of preserving peace in Europe;

Guided by the aims and principles of the United Nations Charter, in the interests of the further strengthening and developing of friendship, collaboration and mutual assistance in accordance with the principles of respecting the independence and sovereignty of the States and non-interference in their internal affairs;

Have decided to conclude the present treaty of friendship, collaboration and mutual assistance.

Article 1

The high contracting parties undertake, in accordance with the United Nations Charter, to abstain in their international relations from threats of violence or its use and to settle international disputes by peaceful means, so as not to put each other or international peace in danger.

Article 2

The contracting parties declare their readiness to co-operate in all international actions with the purpose of insuring international peace and security.

With that, the contracting parties will strive to reach agreement with States desiring to co-operate in that cause and take measures to reduce armaments and the ban of atomic, hydrogen and other kinds of weapons of mass destruction.

Article 3

The contracting parties will consult mutually on all important international problems affecting their common interests, taking as their guide the interests of strengthening international peace and security.

They will immediately consult each time in the event of a threat of armed attack against one or several States, signatories to the pact, in the interest of insuring their mutual defense and of maintaining peace and security.

Article 4

In case of armed aggression in Europe against one or several States party to the pact by a State or group of States, each State member of the pact, in order to put into practice the right to individual or collective self-defense, in accordance with Article 51 of the U.N. Charter, will afford to the State or States which are the objects of such an aggression immediate assistance, individually and in agreement with other States, party to the pact, with all means which appear necessary, including the use of armed forces.

The parties to the pact will immediately take joint measures necessary to establish and preserve international peace and security.

Measures taken on the basis of this article will assist security in accordance with the U.N. Charter.

These measures will be stopped as soon as the Security Council takes measures necessary for establishing and preserving international peace and security.

Article 5

The contracting powers agree to set up a joint command of their armed forces to be allotted by agreement between the powers, at the disposal of this command and used on the basis of jointly established principles.

They will also take other agreed measures necessary to strengthen their defenses in order to protect the peaceful toil of their peoples, guarantee the integrity of their frontiers and territories and insure their defense against possible aggression.

Article 6

With the object of carrying out consultations provided by the present Treaty between the States participating in the Treaty and for the examination of questions arising in connexion with the fulfillment of this Treaty, a political consultative committee is being set up in which each State participating in the Treaty will be represented by a member of its Government or another specially appointed representative.

The Committee may set up any auxiliary organs it considers necessary.

Article 7

The contracting parties undertake not to enter into any coalitions or unions and not to enter into any agreements whose aims are contrary to the terms of this Treaty.

The contracting parties declare that their obligations under existing international agreements are not contrary to the terms of the present Treaty.

Article 8

The contracting parties declare that they will act in a spirit of friendship and co-operation in order further to develop the economic and cultural ties between them, and will be guided by principles of mutual respect and will not interfere in the internal affairs of each other.

Article 9

The present Treaty is open to other States, irrespective of their social or Government regime, who declare their readiness to abide by the terms of this Treaty in order to safeguard peace and security of the peoples.

The joining of this Treaty by such countries will come into force in agreement with the States party to the Treaty, after it has been handed over to the Government of Poland for safekeeping.

Article 10

The present Treaty is subject to ratification, and the ratification instruments will be handed over to the Government of Poland for safekeeping. It will come into force on the day the instruments are handed over to the Polish Government.

The Government of the Polish People's Republic will inform the other States signatories to the Treaty when each ratification instrument is handed over.

Article 11

The present Treaty will remain in force for twenty years. Those States which do not give notice of abrogation one year before the Treaty expires will remain bound by it for a further ten years.

In the event of a system of collective security being set up in Europe and a pact to this effect being signed - to which each party to this Treaty will direct its efforts - the present Treaty will lapse from the day such a collective security treaty comes into force.

Drawn up in Warsaw May 14, 1955, in one copy each in Russian, Polish, Czech and German, each text being equally valid.

Attested copies of this Treaty will be sent to the Governments of each party to the Treaty by the Government of the Polish People's Republic.

In witness whereof the plenipotentiary representatives affixed their signatures and seal.