

[Translator Notes are bracketed]

*USSR*

*State Security Committee at the USSR Soviet of Ministers [KGB]*

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*On possible political and military consequences of the development and deployment of high-precision tactical weapons*

*Recently, the attention of military and political circles of NATO member-states was attracted to the problem of so-called high-precision tactical weapons. It is predicted that the development of such weapons may result in structural changes of the armed forces and subsequently seriously influence the further development of the international situation.*

*The development of high-precision tactical weapons by the NATO countries follows from the everlasting arms race. High-precision weapons have high autonomy and mobility and, most importantly, can hit the target practically at the first attempt, under any weather and during any time of the day. Examples of these type of weapons are bombs with laser or thermal guidance used earlier in the war in South-East Asia, various types of missiles and rockets controlled with laser beam (anti-tank missile Hellfire and 155mm self-guided artillery projectile under development in the U.S.), by ground form (short-range missile Pershing-2 with impact error of 20 to 40 metres, unmanned aerial vehicles), etc.*

*Western experts believe that the emergence of high-precision weapons would introduce a range of new factors, both stabilising and destabilising, in the international situation.*

*High effectiveness of the new weapons is seen as a stabilising factor, as it makes use of nuclear means of destruction less likely and increases the defending side's capability of resisting even superior forces of the enemy. The destabilising factors are believed to include the danger of proliferation of high-precision tactical weapons in a wide circle of states, and the possibility of its production even in*

*countries which do not possess highly developed science and technology. That may make local military conflicts and terrorist attacks more likely.*

*A number of foreign experts believe that the development of such weapons may lead to the abolition of certain kinds of expensive modern equipment in aviation and tanks. Cheap tanks, personnel carriers, unmanned aircraft, and small highly mobile units may play a bigger role in the future military actions. It is believed in NATO military circles that the threat of guaranteed hitting of the targets with the new weapons would require a whole range of measures for dispersal of military industrial objects, weapons storages, and large military bases.*

*The United States are trying to use the new opportunities arising from the development of high-precision tactical weapons in order to strengthen the NATO and "increase their West European allies' confidence in their capability of resisting the Warsaw Pact forces.*

*Aspiring for a further growth of strength of NATO armed forces, the Bloc's military and political circles find it expedient to equip the high-precision weapons with low-yield nuclear warheads. In their view, such weapon systems would be able to hit major targets without significant damage to civilian objects or significant civilian casualties. The NATO leaders use these qualities of the new weapons to argue for simplification of the decision-making procedure on combat use of tactical nuclear weapons.*

*At present stage, the development of high-precision weapons involves introducing the models that have already been tested, studying the accumulated experience of their practical use, and developing new experimental systems. In March 1975, an unofficial meeting of the representatives of military and industrial circles of the NATO countries took place in West Germany. It was concluded that it was realistic to expect that high-precision tactical weapons might be massively deployed and ready to use as early as in the beginning of 1980s.*

*Therefore, the development of high-precision nuclear weapons may be considered as one of the directions in which the military potential of NATO member-states would be increased.*

*[Signed]: KGB Chairman Andropov*