

Treaty between the USSR and Bulgaria (Moscow, 18 March 1948)

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Treaty of friendship and mutual assistance between the U.S.S.R. and the Bulgarian People's Republic

The Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R. and the Presidium of the Grand National Assembly of the Bulgarian People's Republic, for the purpose of further developing and consolidating friendly relations between the U.S.S.R. and Bulgaria, convinced that the consolidation of friendship between the Soviet Union and Bulgaria meets the vital interests of the peoples of both States and will best contribute to their economic development, filled with the desire to co-operate in the interests of universal peace and security in conformity with the aims and principles of the United Nations-have decided to conclude the present Treaty for this purpose and have appointed as their plenipotentiary representatives : the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R.-Vyacheslav Molotov, Vice-Chairman of the Council of Ministers and Foreign Minister of the U.S.S.R. ; the Presidium of the Bulgarian People's Republic - Georgi Dimitroff, Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Bulgarian People's Republic, who, upon exchange of their credentials found in due form and full order, agreed upon the following :

Article I

The high contracting parties undertake to take jointly all measures within their power to eliminate any threat of a resumption of aggression on the part of Germany or of any other State which would unite with Germany directly or in any other form. The high contracting parties declare their intention to participate in a spirit of most sincere co-operation in all international actions aimed at ensuring peace and security and will fully make their contribution to the realisation of these lofty tasks.

Article II

In the event of one of the high contracting parties being involved in hostilities with Germany which would try to resume her aggressive policy, or with any other State which would directly or in any other form unite with Germany in a policy of aggression, the other high contracting party will immediately render military and every other assistance with all means at its disposal to the contracting party involved in hostilities. The implementation of the present Treaty will conform to the principles of the United Nations Charter.

Article III

Each of the high contracting parties undertakes not to conclude any alliance and not to take part in any coalition or actions or measures directed against the other high contracting party.

Article IV

The high contracting parties will consult with each other on all important international problems involving the interests of both countries.

Article V

The high contracting parties declare that they will develop and consolidate economic and cultural connections between the two States in a spirit of friendship and co-operation, adhering to the principles of mutual respect for their independence and sovereignty and non-interference in the internal affairs of the other State.

Article VI

The present Treaty will be valid for 20 years from the date of its signing. If at the end of this 20-year term neither of the high contracting parties gives notice, one year before the expiration of this term, of its desire to terminate the Treaty, it shall remain valid for a further five years, and so on, until either of the high contracting parties gives notice in writing, one year before the expiration of the then current five-year term, of its intention to terminate the operation of the Treaty.

The present Treaty comes into force immediately upon its signing and is subject to ratification within the shortest possible time. The exchange of ratification instruments will take place in Sofia in the near future.

In testimony whereof the plenipotentiary representatives have signed the present Treaty and affixed their seals to it.

Made in Moscow on March 18, 1948, in two copies each in the Russian and Bulgarian languages, both texts having equal force.

(Signed)

On authorisation of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R.,

V. M. MOLOTOV.

On authorisation of the Presidium of the Grand National Assembly of the Bulgarian People's Republic,

G. DIMITROFF.