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The Preparation and Conduct of an Operation by the
Armed Forces in a Theater of Military
Operations in the Initial Period of War

(According to the Views of the NATO Command)

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NATO is one of the largest and most aggressive blocs of imperialism. Operating under the influence of the US, this bloc is preparing its armed forces for an attack against the countries of the socialist commonwealth. The basic means of unleashing a war in Europe is considered to be a surprise nuclear attack.

For this purpose the main grouping of NATO missile/nuclear weapons, ground and air forces is concentrated in the Central European Theater of Military Operations. It is namely in this theater of military operations that the NATO Command intends to carry out decisive operations in the initial period of a war. It is the opinion of military leaders that the course and outcome of a world war on the whole will depend to a significant degree on the success of military operations in the Central European Theater of Military Operations.

In order for the armed forces to conduct operations in the Central European Theater of Military Operations, the NATO Command has created a grouping of allied ground and air forces consisting of two army groups (Northern and Central) and two allied tactical air forces (ATAF) (the 2nd and 4th ATAF).

On 1 April 1966 this grouping numbered 25 divisions, two separate brigades, 900 launchers of operational-tactical and tactical missiles and nuclear artillery weapons, 4,041 field artillery weapons and mortars, 6,498 tanks, and 1,480 aircraft and helicopters of the army aviation.

The air forces in this theater have 2,030 combat aircraft (of which 895 are nuclear weapons carriers).

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