

May 27, 1952. They will do all in their power to improve conditions in Berlin and to promote the economic welfare of the city.

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The three Governments remain ready to take advantage of any further opportunity which may arise to promote, by renewal of the contacts established at Berlin or by other means, a solution of the German and Austrian problems.

The three Ministers explained and reaffirmed the purely defensive character of Western security arrangements.

Offers were made to discuss how the undertakings which already protect the Soviet Union against aggression could be reinforced. The Soviet delegation made no response to these offers. Their own proposals would have involved the dissolution of the Western security system, while the military power of the Soviet bloc in Europe remained intact. The three Powers do not intend to be deflected from their efforts to develop the system of defense on which their survival depends.

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***Joint Declaration by the Allied High Commission, on the Status of East Germany, April 8, 1954<sup>1</sup>***

The Allied High Commission desires to clarify the attitude of the governments which it represents toward the statement issued on March 25 by the Soviet Government, purporting to describe a change in its relations with the Government of the so-called German Democratic Republic. This statement appears to have been intended to create the impression that sovereignty has been granted to the German Democratic Republic. It does not alter the actual situation in the Soviet Zone. The Soviet Government still retains effective control there.

The three governments represented in the Allied High Commission will continue to regard the Soviet Union as the responsible power for the Soviet Zone of Germany. These governments do not recognize the sovereignty of the East German regime which is not based on free elections, and do not intend to deal with it as a government. They believe that this attitude will be shared by other states, who, like themselves, will continue to recognize the Government of the Federal Republic as the only freely elected and legally constituted government in Germany. The Allied High Commission also takes this occasion to express the resolve of its governments that the Soviet action shall not deter them from their determination to work for the reunification of Germany as a free and sovereign nation.

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***Declaration by the Western Foreign Ministers, on Berlin, October 22, 1954<sup>2</sup>***

**THREE-POWER DECLARATION ON BERLIN**

With respect to Berlin, in addition to the Allies' security guarantees for the city in the London communique of October 3, 1954, the Foreign

<sup>1</sup> Department of State Bulletin, April 19, 1954, p. 588.

<sup>2</sup> Senate Executives L and M, 83d Congress, 2d Session, p. 171.