

This spirit of fellowship, which fortified our common effort in a common cause, is one of the important products of the Geneva Conference.

The statement which I make to you tonight follows extended conference with President Eisenhower. He authorizes me to say that he fully shares the evaluation which I have made of the Geneva Conference and of its impact upon our national policies. That evaluation stems from the President's ruling and life purpose for a fair, just and durable peace for the world, a purpose which I share and which, with him, I strive to implement.

And now, in closing, let me read from my verbatim notes of our conference at Gettysburg this morning. As I was leaving, the President turned to me and said:

"I know that no setback, no obstacle to progress will ever deter this government and our people from the great effort to establish a just and durable peace. Success may be long in coming, but there is no temporal force so capable of helping achieve it as the strength, the might, the spirit of 165 million free Americans. In striving toward this shining goal, this country will never admit defeat."

Note from the American Ambassador at Bonn (Conant) to the Soviet Ambassador at Berlin (Pushkin), Protesting the Paramilitary Units (Kampfgruppen) in East Berlin, February 10, 1956¹

I am instructed to inform you of the growing concern of my Government over the development in recent months of para-military activities in the Soviet Sector of Berlin. These activities assumed an ominous form when some thousands of civilians, armed with machine pistols and other weapons, marched through East Berlin in a demonstration on January 15. We note that this demonstration even included the participation of young boys and girls carrying firearms.

The formation of para-military groups and their employment in provocative displays have serious implications which my Government cannot ignore. Their continued activity can only create unrest among the population and result in a heightening of international tension in the Berlin area.

Such activity could have the gravest consequences. As your Government is aware, the United States, in common with the United Kingdom and France, has formally undertaken to defend the safety and welfare of the populations in their sectors against attack from any quarter. The United States cannot recognize any waiver of responsibility by the Soviet Government for acts which could lead to any such attack.

As you are aware, the bearing of arms by members of the general public is prohibited by a body of quadripartite legislation to which the British, French and United States commandants attach great importance and which they have been careful to observe in their sectors. My Government hopes that the Soviet Government as the responsible authority will prevent the local authorities in the Soviet Sector from creating dangers to the peace of Berlin through the

¹ Department of State press release 77, February 10, 1956. The British and French Ambassadors delivered similar notes.

sponsorship of activities by armed civilian groups or through other threats directed at the Western Sectors.

***Letter from Premier Bulganin to President Eisenhower, on
Reduction of Foreign Forces in Germany, June 6, 1956***¹

[Extract]

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Guided by the high aims of strengthening peace among peoples, the Soviet Government decided to take the initiative and, without waiting for a disarmament agreement, make a large cut in the armed forces of the Soviet Union, amounting to 1,200,000 men, this in addition to the 1955 cut of 640,000 men. The armaments and combat materiel of the armed forces of the U.S.S.R., as well as the military expenditures of the Soviet Union in the U.S.S.R. state budget, will be cut accordingly.

In line with this decision, 63 divisions and separate brigades are being demobilized, including three air divisions and other combat units numbering over 30,000 men stationed on the territory of the German Democratic Republic. We of course understand that the withdrawal from Germany of the said number of Soviet troops does not solve the question entirely. This measure of the Soviet Government is only the first step. However, we base our thinking on the premise that if the Governments of the United States, England, and France, which have their troops on German territory, would for their part also take steps to reduce their armed forces in Germany, then this would undoubtedly prepare the ground for more decisive steps in this matter. At the same time we have in mind that such measures on the part of the governments of the four powers could later lead to an agreement on a sharp reduction in the foreign armed forces in Germany or the withdrawal of foreign armed forces from German territory.

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***Joint Communiqué on German Question by Chancellor Adenauer
and Secretary of State Dulles, June 13, 1956***²

The visit of Chancellor Adenauer to Washington has afforded an opportunity for a full exchange of views between him and Secretary of State Dulles. This has permitted the Chancellor and the Secretary of State to undertake a broad review of the world situation and of problems confronting their governments in the international field. The Chancellor was accompanied by State Secretary Hallstein.

Foremost among the matters discussed were the question of German reunification, the most recent events in the Soviet Union, and the further development and strengthening of the Atlantic community.

¹ Department of State Bulletin, August 20, 1956, p. 301. The President replied to this letter on August 4, 1956 (*infra*). Premier Bulganin enclosed a copy of the Soviet statement of May 14, 1956 on the reduction of forces (*ibid.*, pp. 301-305).

² Department of State press release 322, June 13, 1956.