

efforts on the practical preparations for it, with a view to making such a meeting possible in the very near future.

We hope, Mr. President, that the considerations of the Soviet Government concerning the preparation and the holding of a summit meeting will meet with a favorable attitude on the part of the Government of the U.S.A.

Statement at News Conference by Secretary of State Dulles, on German Reunification and a Summit Meeting, March 4, 1958¹

[Extract]

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Q. Mr. Secretary, in that connection, do you consider the discussion of German reunification to be an absolute prerequisite on the agenda of the Summit meeting?

A. Well, I do not want to say on my own authority that anything is an absolute prerequisite. We have views of allies which we take into account, and of course, as far as the United States is concerned, the final voice is that of the President. But I would say this: That the last Summit meeting made three or four rather significant declarations with respect to German reunification. It said, for example, that there was a "close link" between German reunification and security in Europe. It said that the four powers recognized responsibility for the reunification of Germany, and it went on to say that the four powers agreed that Germany should be reunified by free elections in accordance with the national interests of the German people and of European security.

It would seem to be at least of dubious wisdom to have a second Summit meeting which would in effect bury the results of the first Summit meeting and which would not rather build upon the first meeting, to go forward. The position of the NATO countries in that respect was put forward very strongly, unanimously, at the Summit NATO meeting held last December. I would feel that if there is a real desire to make these meetings with the Russians amount to anything, that they should move forward on the basis of building upon each other, not on the basis of burying each other.

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Aide-Mémoire from the Department of State to the Soviet Ambassador (Menshikov), Regarding a Summit Meeting, March 6, 1958²

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The United States Government acknowledges the receipt of the memorandum handed by the Soviet Foreign Minister Mr. Gromyko to the United States Ambassador to Moscow on February 28, 1958. The United States Government has attentively studied this memorandum.

¹ Department of State press release 104, March 4, 1958.

² Department of State press release 113, March 6, 1958. The Soviet Union replied in an *aide-mémoire* of March 24, 1958 (*infra*).