

## IX.

The United States reaffirms its desire that, on the assumption that there will be a meeting of Heads of Government, it will be held not as a spectacle, not to reaffirm generalities, but to take serious decisions which will lead to an international atmosphere of cooperation and goodwill.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,  
*Washington, March 6, 1958.*

***Letter from the American Ambassador at Bonn (Bruce) to the Soviet Chargé d'Affaires at Berlin, Regarding Soviet Request to Make Jet Flights in West Germany, March 12, 1958***<sup>1</sup>

I wish to bring to your attention a message delivered on February 24 to the U.S. Controller in the Berlin Air Safety Center by the Soviet Controller, and published that same evening by the Soviet Zone News Agency, ADN. The message stated that "since the Soviet Embassy in Bonn had received requisite clearance from the Foreign Office for the overflight on February 14 of the territory of the German Federal Republic by a Soviet aircraft TU-104A, the action of the American representative in refusing clearance for overflight was unfounded and can only be identified as an attempt to interfere with normal air traffic by civil aircraft over the territory of the German Federal Republic, and was in violation of procedures based on international law."

This statement is not in accord with the facts. The allegation concerning the "violation of procedures based on international law" is without foundation. As I informed you in my letter of January 16, 1958, the Three Powers, in keeping with quadripartite responsibilities relating to Germany as a whole, continue to exercise control with respect to the use of the airspace over the Federal Republic by aircraft of the U.S.S.R. This is set out in Article 6, Chapter XII of the Convention on the Settlement of Matters Arising out of the War and the Occupation, signed at Paris on October 23, 1954.

In this connection I might call to your attention the enclosed statement which was made to the press on February 25 by the Federal German Press Office. This not only reaffirms the principle of the Three Power responsibility for such overflights, but also contradicts the assertion of the Soviet Controller in BASC that the Foreign Office had given "the requisite clearance" for the February 14 flight of the Soviet aircraft TU-104A. The pertinent part of the Press Office statement reads as follows: "\* \* \* The first case stemmed from the statement by the Soviet Zone ADN, according to which the Soviet Embassy in Bonn received the necessary approval from the Foreign Office for the overflight of the territory of the German Federal Republic on February 14 by the Soviet TU-104A aircraft. The Foreign Office stated with regard to this that it had given no such approval since the Three Powers, in accordance with the responsibilities relating to Germany as a whole, continue to exercise control

<sup>1</sup> *Department of State Bulletin*, April 7, 1958, p. 553. The British and French Ambassadors sent similar letters.

through the Berlin Air Safety Center over aircraft of the Soviet Union utilizing the airspace of the Federal Republic."

Furthermore, since the flight request was still under consideration by the American, British and French Embassies when the Soviet aircraft in question flew by an alternative route, it is incorrect to state that the American representative refused clearance for the flight.

I should like to remind you that in the past the Three Powers have consistently authorized individual Soviet overflights of the Federal Republic when requested by the Soviet authorities. These authorizations were based on the expectation that, on their side, the Soviet authorities would continue to honor their quadripartite responsibilities and authorize, upon request, flights of aircraft of the Three Powers in the airspace over the Soviet Zone outside the quadripartite established air corridors.

Since earlier communications on this subject have been released to the press by the Soviet authorities, I am likewise releasing this letter to the press.

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***Aide-Mémoire from the Soviet Foreign Minister (Gromyko) to the American Ambassador (Thompson), Regarding a Summit Meeting, March 24, 1958***<sup>1</sup>

The Soviet Government has attentively examined the considerations set forth by the U.S. Government in its aide memoire of March 6, 1958, which is a reply to the aide memoire of the Soviet Government of February 28 on the question of preparing a meeting at the highest level.

As is known, the Soviet Government, concerned as it is over international developments which have taken a turn dangerous to the cause of peace, proposed at the close of 1957 to call a meeting of leading statesmen to solve a number of urgent problems and to define through joint efforts effective ways to reduce international tension and to end the state of "cold war."

The Soviet Government notes that the U.S. Government, referring in its aide memoire to the purpose of a summit meeting, also proclaims that it desires this meeting to take meaningful decisions which would initiate the settlement of at least some important political problems and lead to the establishment of international climate of cooperation and good will.

However, one must admit that while the Soviet Government, after proposing to call a meeting of leading statesmen, has taken several concrete steps to meet the wishes of the U.S. Government and of other Western powers, both with regard to the questions which should be examined at a summit meeting and with regard to the procedure of preparing this meeting, the U.S. Government, as evident from its aide memoire, is trying in fact to bring the entire question of a summit meeting back to the initial position.

The Soviet Government has proposed that the summit meeting should discuss such pressing international problems, agreement on which seems feasible at this meeting and the settlement of which could

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<sup>1</sup> *Department of State Bulletin*, April 21, 1958, pp. 652-655. For the next act in the "summit" correspondence, see tripartite declaration of March 31, 1958 (*infra*).