

Proposal for Free Election

Translation of Statement

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Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany
before the Bundestag (Federal Assembly) at Bonn Sept. 27

Principal Western Proposals For Free All-German Election

Feb. 28, 1950 — High Commissioner McCloy proposed all-German elections for a constitutional convention.

March 22, 1950 — Chancellor Adenauer on behalf of the Federal Republic made a similar proposal and outlined the conditions necessary for such an election.

May 14, 1950 — The United States, French and British foreign ministers, meeting in London, welcomed and endorsed Chancellor Adenauer's resolution of March 22, and set forth specific conditions for unification.

May 26, 1950 — The United States, French and British high commissioners in Germany sent identical letters to the Soviet commissioner, General Chuikov, proposing the joint drafting of an election law for all-German elections.

July 3, 1950 — High Commissioner McCloy again declared himself for free democratic elections in all Germany.

Sept. 14, 1950 — A resolution was passed by the German Federal Parliament calling for free elections in all of Germany.

Sept. 19, 1950 — The foreign ministers of the United States, France and the United Kingdom issued a communique at New York restating their desire to see Germany unified and referring to previous Allied proposals for all-German elections.

Oct. 1, 1950 — Chancellor Adenauer wrote the three Western high commissioners endorsing the Federal Parliament's resolution of Sept. 14.

Oct. 10, 1950 — The United States, French and British high commissioners again wrote to Soviet General Chuikov referring to their unanswered letters of May 26, and calling attention to the West German proposals as representing the desire of the German people for unity.

Oct. 25, 1950 — Secretary of State Acheson in a statement referred to repeated proposals for free elections in all Germany and renewed America's strong support for such elections as the necessary prelude to a peace treaty.

Jan. 15, 1951 — Chancellor Adenauer once more stated the Federal Republic's position in favor of free, general, equal and secret elections.

Jan. 21, 1951 — German Social Democratic leader, Dr. Kurt Schumacher, supported Chancellor Adenauer's declaration and said that only by bringing the freedom of the West to the German East would Germany be unified.

March 5, 1951 — The United States, French and British deputies at the Paris Four-Power Conference proposed that the "re-establishment of German unity" be one of the problems to be discussed at any meeting of the four foreign ministers.

March 9, 1951 — Chancellor Adenauer and the German Federal Parliament once more demanded free all-German elections, under conditions fully safeguarding individual liberties in the Soviet Zone.

THE SUPREME AIM of the policy of the Federal Government is and remains that of re-establishing German unity in a free and united Europe. This unity should be based on the free decision of the entire German people.

The Federal Government, therefore, repeatedly proposed that free, general, equal, secret and direct elections for a constituent national assembly should take place in the whole of Germany. This proposal was last made by the government in its declaration of March 9, 1951. At the same time the Federal Government defined the indispensable prerequisites for the carrying out of free elections.

The Soviet Occupation Power did not send a reply to any of these proposals submitted by the Federal Government. The Soviet Zone authorities rejected these proposals.

Mr. Grotewohl* has now made statements in the *Volkskammer* on Sept. 15 which seem to come nearer to the proposals submitted by the Federal Government. The Federal Government has carefully examined these statements. The Senate and the Chamber of Deputies of Berlin immediately proposed free elections for the whole of Berlin which, unfortunately, were rejected.

Mr. Grotewohl continues to insist on consultations concerning all-German elections. What do consultations with Communists mean? From many bitter experiences the world knows that when representatives of Communism talk of consultations they mean either dictation or endless delays. It would be a different matter if we had to deal with freely elected representatives of the people of the Soviet Zone. We could at once find agreement with them.

IN ORDER NOT TO LEAVE any stone unturned, the Federal Government will submit an election procedure for free all-German elections. This election procedure will in its essential points embody the following principles:

1. The electoral area shall constitute one single constituency; each party shall submit a list of candidates for the entire electoral area.
2. Freedom of political activity for preparing and carrying out the election shall be guaranteed.
3. All restrictions on passenger traffic between the occupation zones, including Greater Berlin, shall be repealed not later than three months prior to the elections.
4. Absolute personal freedom shall be guaranteed throughout the entire electoral area to each duly nominated candidate for a seat in the National Assembly pending its convention. The candidate shall neither be arrested, detained, nor proceeded against in the courts, nor subjected to disciplinary action, dismissed from his service

* Otto Grotewohl, premier in the Soviet-Zone regime, in which the "Volkskammer" occupies the place of a parliamentary body.

or employment, nor be otherwise called to account or hindered in his freedom of movement. He must be granted the necessary leave from employment to prepare for the election.

5. Prior to, during and after the election, no one may be arrested, detained, proceeded against in the courts, subjected to disciplinary action, dismissed from service or employment, nor otherwise called to account because of his political attitude.

6. Public meetings of parties, which have duly submitted a list of candidates, and of their candidates, shall be permitted unrestrictedly and shall be placed under official protection.

7. The distribution of newspapers, periodicals and other printed matter, which are published in any German state, and the reception of broadcasts must not be impaired in the entire electoral area.

8. The secrecy of the election shall be guaranteed.

9. Ballots and their envelopes shall be the same for all persons entitled to vote and must not bear any marks by which the voter may be identified. The marking of the ballot by the voter shall take place in a part of the polling station which cannot be observed by any other persons. The voter shall enclose his ballot in an envelope and put it into the ballot box in front of the polling committee.

10. Renunciation of these provisions is inadmissible. Any infringement shall invalidate the entire election of the polling district concerned.

11. The votes shall be counted in public by the polling committee consisting of the representatives of the different parties.

12. Preparation and carrying out of the election shall be under international protection and international supervision.

13. In all parts of the electoral area protection shall be uniformly entrusted to international supervisory bodies. The German authorities shall comply with the directions of these supervisory bodies.

14. The supervisory bodies shall safeguard the rights and liberties of the population resulting from these provisions. Every German has the right to appeal to the supervisory bodies.

AFTER THIS ELECTION PROCEDURE shall have been passed by the German Assembly (*Bundestag*) and Council (*Bundesrat*), the Federal Government will transmit it to the United Nations, the four Occupation Powers and the authorities of the Soviet Zone in order to obtain their views. In so doing, it will propose that the international supervisory bodies be composed of representatives of neutral powers.

Really free elections, however, are possible only if the prerequisites for the free expression of the will of the people are fulfilled in fact in the Soviet Zone. So far the over-all situation in the Soviet Zone is far removed from that state of freedom. The hundreds of refugees who daily cross the zonal border to the West, leaving all they have behind them, seeking refuge in the Federal Republic, are shocking proof of the state of lawlessness and lack of freedom in the Soviet Zone. These people are driven by harassing insecurity, the fear of the People's Police, of the concentration camps and of forced labor.

The Federal Republic feels it to be its duty to do everything in order to establish clarity and certainty in this field. This can only be done in the face of world public opinion by having a neutral international commission under the supervision of the United Nations examine, in the Soviet Zone and in the territory of the Federal Republic, to what extent the existing circumstances permit the holding of free elections. The Federal Government will at once apply for such an international investigation with respect to the territory of the Federal Republic. It is a matter for the Soviet Zone authorities to do the same.

The joining together of the territories of the Soviet Zone and of the Federal Republic will be the first step toward Germany's reunification. This is of vital importance for the German people and for world peace. +END

Aliens Start Army Training

Forty-five alien enlistees in the US Army sailed Oct. 3 from Bremerhaven for the United States (*see back cover*), where they will receive their basic training. Enlisted under a recent Act of Congress whereby certain aliens can be accepted in the Regular Army, these 45 represent the first contingent sent to the United States to undergo training. Under current plans, a flow of approximately 50 a month is planned.

The enlistees started to draw their pay of \$75 per month (equivalent to DM 315) on the day they entered the service. Increases in pay will follow as promotions are received in accordance with the usual US Army practice.

This initial group includes representatives from Czechoslovakia, U.S.S.R., Hungary, the Ukraine, Poland, Latvia, Estonia and Rumania as well as stateless persons, and are the first alien volunteers to be accepted in the

expanding US military effort. (*See pictorial feature "Stateless Europeans Enlist" in Information Bulletin, September 1951.*)

Although 2,500 applicants can be accepted under present law, new legislation has been enacted to authorize enlistment of an additional 10,000 aliens. More than 3,400 applications have been received to date. Many of those who applied, however, were ineligible for enlistment because they were presently married. Others were ineligible because they were not nationals of countries from which enlistments are authorized.

Countries whose nationals are not eligible for enlistment are those countries which are signatories to the North Atlantic Treaty or countries participating in the European Recovery Program. German nationals are not eligible for enlistment.