

***Letter from the Foreign Minister of the German Democratic Republic (Bolz) to Deputy Foreign Minister of the Soviet Union (Zorin), September 20, 1955***<sup>1</sup>

The Government of the GDR has authorized me to confirm that agreement has been reached on the following matters in consequence of the negotiations conducted between the Government of the GDR and the Government of the USSR in Moscow between September 17 and 20, 1955:

(1) The GDR exercises control over and guards the frontiers of the GDR, the demarcation line between the GDR and the German Federal Republic, at the outer ring of greater Berlin, within Berlin, and on the lines of communication between the German Federal Republic and West Berlin situated on GDR territory.

In the control and guarding of lines of communication between the German Federal Republic and West Berlin situated on GDR territory, the GDR will insure with the appropriate authorities of the German Federal Republic, the settlement of all matters connected with rail and road traffic and the passage of shipping of the German Federal Republic and West Berlin, their citizens or inhabitants and foreign states and their citizens, except for the personnel and material of the troops of the United States, Great Britain, and France in West Berlin, which is mentioned subsequently in paragraph 2.

In accordance with the above, the functions of issuing and completing shipping documents for shipping on the internal waterways of the GDR and others will be exclusively exercised by the authorities of the GDR.

(2) The control of traffic of troops and material of the garrisons of France, England, and the United States stationed in West Berlin passing between the German Federal Republic and West Berlin, will temporarily be exercised by the command of Soviet troops in Germany, pending the conclusion of an appropriate agreement. To this end, the transportation of military personnel or of garrison material of the troops of the three Western Powers in West Berlin will be permitted on the basis of existing Four-Power decisions:

(A) On the Autobahn Berlin-Marienborn,

(B) On the Railway Line Berlin-Helmstedt, with empty rolling stock being routed back on the Berlin-Oebisfelde Railway Line.

(C) In the air corridors Berlin Hamburg, Berlin-Bueckeburg, and Berlin-Frankfurt-Main.

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***Statement by the American, British, and French Foreign Ministers, on the Soviet-GDR Agreements, September 28, 1955***<sup>2</sup>

The Foreign Ministers of the United States, the United Kingdom, and France wish to make known their view on certain points in connection with the agreements of September 20, 1955, as reported in the press, between the Soviet Union and the regime in the Soviet zone of Germany.

<sup>1</sup> Soviet radio broadcast. Mr. Zorin addressed an analogous letter to Dr. Bolz.

<sup>2</sup> *Department of State Bulletin*, October 10, 1955, pp. 559-560. Issued at New York.

They wish in the first place to emphasize that these agreements cannot affect the obligations or responsibilities of the Soviet Union under agreements and arrangements between the Three Powers and the Soviet Union on the subject of Germany and Berlin. The Soviet Union remains responsible for the carrying out of these obligations.

Secondly, the three Foreign Ministers reaffirm that the Federal Republic of Germany is the only German Government freely and legitimately constituted and therefore entitled to speak for Germany as the representative of the German people in international affairs. These three governments do not recognize the East German regime nor the existence of a state in the Soviet zone.

Finally, as regards a statement which has recently appeared in the Soviet press on the frontiers of Germany, the three Foreign Ministers reaffirm the repeatedly expressed position of their Governments that the final determination of the frontiers of Germany must await a peace settlement for the whole of Germany.

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***Note from the American Embassy to the Soviet Foreign Ministry,  
on the Soviet-GDR Agreements, October 3, 1955***<sup>1</sup>

The Government of the United States of America, in agreement with the Governments of the United Kingdom and France, wishes to make known its position with regard to the agreements concluded at Moscow on the 20th of September 1955 between Marshal Bulganin and Mr. Grotewohl, as published in the press.

The three Governments declare that these agreements cannot affect in any respect or in any way the obligations or responsibilities of the U.S.S.R. under agreements and arrangements on the subject of Germany, including Berlin, previously concluded between France, the United States, the United Kingdom and the U.S.S.R.

The three Governments consider that the U.S.S.R. remains bound by the engagements which it has assumed vis-a-vis the Three Powers concerning Germany, and that, in particular, the letters exchanged between Mr. Zorin and Mr. Bolz on the 20th of September 1955 cannot have the effect of discharging the U.S.S.R. from the responsibilities which it has assumed in matters concerning transportation and communications between the different parts of Germany, including Berlin.

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***Note from the Soviet Foreign Ministry to the American Embassy,  
on the Soviet-GDR Agreements, October 18, 1955***<sup>2</sup>

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics presents its compliments to the Embassy of the United States of America and in connection with the latter's note of October 3 has the honor to state the following:

On September 20 of this year the Government of the Soviet Union and the Government of the German Democratic Republic concluded "A Treaty on Relations Between the Union of Soviet Socialist Re-

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<sup>1</sup> *Ibid.*, October 17, 1955, p. 616. The British and French Embassies delivered similar notes on the same day. For the text of the Soviet reply of October 18, see *infra*.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, November 7, 1955, pp. 734-735. For the text of the American reply of October 27, see *infra*.