

***Soviet Proposal for Establishment of an All-German Council,
November 2, 1955***¹

ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ALL-GERMAN COUNCIL

Guided by the desire to further the development of full cooperation between the German Democratic Republic and the German Federal Republic and the creation of conditions for the settlement of the German problem and for the reunification of Germany by means of free elections in conformity with the national interests of the German people and the interests of European security, the Foreign Ministers of the U.S.S.R., the U.S.A., and the United Kingdom and France declare the following:

Under the present conditions when the German people are deprived of the possibility of living in a united state, the need to bring about cooperation between the G.D.R. and the G.F.R. which would facilitate the settlement of the problem of Germany's national reunification, is becoming ever more urgent. That purpose would be met by the establishment by agreement between the German Democratic Republic and the German Federal Republic of an all-German body to coordinate their efforts in the political, economic and cultural life of the German people and also to cooperate with other states in the consolidation of peace.

Such a representative body of the German people could be an All-German Council to be established on the basis of the following principles:

1. An All-German Council shall be formed, composed of the representatives of the parliaments of the German Democratic Republic and the German Federal Republic, as a consultative body to discuss matters, in the solution of which the German Democratic Republic and the German Federal Republic are interested.

2. Mixed committees shall be set up under the All-German Council, composed of representatives of the governments of the German Democratic Republic and the German Federal Republic, on matters relating to economic and cultural ties between the two German states, German currency and intra-German financial transactions, customs, post and telegraph, communications, etc.

3. The All-German Council shall bring about accord on the numerical strength, armaments, and disposition of units required to ensure the defence of the frontiers and territories of the German Democratic Republic and the German Federal Republic.

4. The All-German Council shall bring about accord on matters relating to the participation of the German Democratic Republic and the German Federal Republic in measures designed to consolidate European security and shall consider by mutual agreement questions pertaining to the establishment of prerequisites for the unification of Germany, as a peaceful and democratic state.

The Foreign Ministers of the U.S.S.R., the U.S.A., the United Kingdom and France express the hope that the German Democratic Republic and the German Federal Republic will make the necessary efforts to achieve agreement on the establishment of the All-German Council.

¹ *Ibid.*, pp. 98-99.