

***Western Proposal for Reunification of Germany by Free Elections, November 4, 1955***<sup>1</sup>

**REUNIFICATION OF GERMANY BY FREE ELECTIONS**

On the joint initiative of the Governments of France, the United Kingdom, the United States and the Federal Republic of Germany, the Foreign Ministers of France, the United Kingdom and the U.S. submit the following proposal as the first step in order to carry out the reunification of Germany in freedom in accordance with the Plan presented by the Three Powers on October 28:

**DRAFT DECISION OF THE CONFERENCE**

In conformity with the common responsibility of their governments for the settlement of the German question and the reunification of Germany and in compliance with the Directive of their Heads of Government that the settlement of the German question and the reunification of Germany by means of free elections shall be carried out in conformity with the national interests of the German people and the interests of European security, the Foreign Ministers of France, the U.K., the U.S.S.R., and the U.S. have agreed as follows:

1. Free and secret elections shall be held throughout Germany during September 1956, for the selection of representatives for an all-German National Assembly to draft a constitution and to form a government thereunder for a reunified Germany.

2. Each of the Four Powers will designate a representative to a Commission to prepare, in consultation with German experts, the electoral law for such elections, including effective provisions for safeguards and supervision to insure the freedom of such elections.

3. The Commission shall undertake its functions promptly and shall submit its report to the Four Powers by January 1956.

---

***Soviet Proposal on Basic Principles of the Treaty Between the Existing Groups of States in Europe, November 9, 1955***<sup>2</sup>

**BASIC PRINCIPLES OF THE TREATY BETWEEN THE EXISTING GROUPS OF STATES IN EUROPE**

Guided by the desire to strengthen peace and recognizing the necessity to contribute in every possible way to reducing international tension and establishing confidence in relations between states,

The Governments of the Soviet Union, the United States of America, France, and the United Kingdom have agreed that the conclusion of a treaty between the member states of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and the Western European Union on the one hand, and the parties to the Warsaw Treaty on the other, would be in the

<sup>1</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 136-137. Tripartite proposal submitted by the United States.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 168.

interest of the maintenance of peace in Europe. Such a treaty might be based on the following principles:

1. The member states of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and of the Paris Agreements, on the one hand, and the parties to the Warsaw Treaty, on the other, undertake to refrain from the use of armed force against one another. This undertaking shall not infringe upon the right of states to individual or collective self-defense in the event of an armed attack, as provided in Article 51 of the UN Charter.

2. The parties to the Treaty undertake to consult one another in the event of differences and disputes which might constitute a threat to the maintenance of peace in Europe.

3. This Treaty is of a provisional nature and shall remain in effect until it is replaced by another treaty for the establishment of a system of collective security in Europe.

---

***Report by Secretary of State Dulles on the Geneva Foreign Ministers Meeting, November 18, 1955***<sup>1</sup>

For the last three weeks the British, the French and ourselves have been negotiating with the Russians at Geneva. I got back yesterday and reported fully to the President in a talk which began last evening and was resumed this morning. Now I am reporting to you, the American people.

As I expect most of you know, this Geneva meeting did not reach any agreements. As a result, many questions are in the air.

Does this mean that the so-called "spirit of Geneva" is dead?

Does it mean that the risk of war has increased?

Will the so-called "cold war" be resumed in full vigor?

Will the United States now have to change basically its military and mutual security programs?

Does it mean an end to negotiating with the Soviet Union?

I shall try to answer all of these questions.

First of all, however, I would like to recall how this latest Geneva Conference came about.

I go back to last spring. Until then Soviet Russia had been pursuing a menacing policy. That was Stalin's line. He believed it was possible to ride roughshod over the free nations.

After Stalin died, that effort continued for a time. The Soviets made intense and blustering efforts to keep West Germany apart from the other Western European nations. Despite this, the Federal Republic of Germany last May joined NATO and the Brussels Treaty creating Western European Union.

This Soviet failure was followed by a change in the Soviet demeanor. Stalin's successors professed, at least superficially, to desire cooperative relations with the free nations. And they made important concessions for this purpose.

For example, they had for eight years refused to sign the Treaty which would give Austria her freedom. But last May they signed that Treaty and pulled the Red Army out of Austria.

<sup>1</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 1-9. Delivered over radio and television.