

Q. Does that rule out that pilot area for central Europe that has been discussed as a test for inspection and other devices for security?

A. Well, as I said in answer to an earlier question, we do not exclude the possibility of having such a zone in Europe. If there is such a zone in Europe, it would have to be worked out in cooperation with NATO, with the Federal Republic. There are very considerable complications about that, so that in line with the policy which I enunciated in my New York speech of a month or so ago, where I said that progress will probably have to be taken by steps, carefully measured and carefully taken, it may be that that is not the best place to start because of the complications.

Q. Mr. Secretary, in your mind is the German reunification and any disarmament reached in Europe, still the two factors that must be resolved at the same time, pretty closely related?

A. I think it is very difficult to work out an effective and dependable limitation of armanent arrangements for Germany which is not connected somewhat with the reunification of Germany. As I indicated before, our views in that respect would be very largely influenced by the views of the German authorities themselves, particularly Chancellor Adenauer. I don't say it is impossible, but I would think that their judgment would carry a great deal of weight in that matter.

Q. I was thinking more of a general disarmament in Europe. Is that in your mind linked with the problem of German reunification? In other words, would we reach a limited disarmament agreement with the Russians without at the same time insisting some progress be made on the German problems?

A. Well, that again I don't want to answer without consultation with the Germans. I think their views are entitled to a great deal of weight.

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***Note from the Foreign Minister of the Federal Republic of Germany (von Brentano) to the Soviet Ambassador (Smirnov), Regarding Nuclear Weapons in Germany, May 23, 1957***<sup>1</sup>

[Extracts]

The frightful dangers of atomic warfare have not been conjured up by the Federal Republic of Germany, which is known not to belong to the Powers possessing or manufacturing or testing atomic and hydrogen weapons. \* \* \*

The statements by the Soviet Government that there may either now or at some future date be claimed to exist a concentration of atomic weapons in the territory of the Federal Republic, or a conversion of the Federal Republic into the main European assembly base and main striking power of NATO for atomic warfare in Europe are completely erroneous. There is not a shred of evidence to support them.

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<sup>1</sup> German Federal Press and Information Office *Bulletin*, May 28, 1957.

## BINDING STATEMENTS

The note of the Soviet Government is based on the supposition that the Federal Government intends to arm the German forces with atomic weapons. With regard to this, the Federal Government calls attention to the binding statements by which the Federal Chancellor, in the course of his conversation with the Soviet Ambassador, Mr. Smirnov, on April 25, 1957, made it clear that the Federal Republic neither possesses any type of atomic weapon nor has requested any supplies of such weapons. \* \* \*

## NATO WEAPONS THREATEN NOBODY

Both the Soviet note of April 27 and the letter written by Ambassador Smirnov on May 4, mention the dangers which would be entailed by setting up nuclear weapons belonging to the Western Powers in the territory of the Federal Republic. These apprehensions are without foundation. It is generally known that the Western forces stationed in the territory of the Federal Republic within the framework of the North Atlantic Treaty, a purely defensive pact, are there merely for defence purposes. The Atlantic Community is built up on the principle of mutual aid in case the Community or one of its members should be attacked. Only those who would irresponsibly risk attacking that Community have any reason to fear it or the weapons in its possession. It is therefore erroneous to see any danger to other peoples in the stationing of atomic weapons in any territory covered by the North Atlantic Treaty. \* \* \*

## SURPRISING ACCUSATIONS

The accusation raised in the Soviet note that the Federal Government will by its policy unleash a race in atomic armaments must be emphatically repudiated by the Federal Government. Its part in the unfortunately already proceeding atomic armaments race is that of an apprehensive and jeopardized onlooker. The Federal Republic is the only country in the world voluntarily to have renounced the manufacture of atomic, biological and chemical weapons, and thus already to have made an effective contribution to atomic disarmament. If, therefore, this Government is accused by one of the strongest atomic Powers in the world of indulging in an atomic armaments race, the only sentiment it is capable of expressing is one of considerable surprise. \* \* \*

The Federal Government shares the view of the Soviet Government that everything possible must be done to ease international tension. But the Federal Government also holds the view that the Soviet Union herself has it in her power, by consenting to a comprehensive disarmament agreement, guaranteed by effective controls, to make a decisive contribution to securing the peace. The Federal Government is determined, for its part, to devote all the energy at its command to bringing about agreements capable of liberating humanity as quickly and effectively as possible from the fear of the threat of force and, in particular, from the fear of atomic war.