

sets of agenda proposals. The further Western communications of July 1 and August 22 have so far also remained unanswered. Since the Soviet Government has indicated in its note that it, too, attaches importance to the solution of the German problem, the United States Government hopes that the Soviet Government will now reply to the Western proposal so that the preparatory talks may continue.

In the interests of making progress on this subject, the Government of the United States is, however, prepared to discuss the German problem in a separate Four Power group to be set up in accordance with the desire of the Federal Government expressed in its Aide Memoire of September 9. The purpose of the group would be to discuss proposals connected with the German problem and to carry out the preparatory work necessary for final negotiations to be held at a later date either at a conference of Heads of Government, if one can be arranged, or otherwise.

The Government of the United States hopes that, in view of the importance of settling the German problem, not only for the German people but also as a contribution towards the relaxation of tension in Europe, the Soviet Government will agree to the procedure set out above.

A copy of the United States Government's reply to the Federal Government's Aide Memoire of September 9 is attached. The United States Government is also informing the Federal Government of the terms of this note.

---

***Remarks at News Conference by Secretary of State Dulles, on German Reunification and Berlin, November 7, 1958***<sup>1</sup>

[Extracts]

\* \* \* \* \*

Q. Mr. Secretary, in recent days you have been criticized in some West German newspapers for allegedly adopting too rigid a position regarding possible talks with Russia on the German problem. Could you sort of review your position on this at this time, sir?

A. The position of the United States so far remains as it has been historically for the last few years, and particularly as it was expressed in the joint communique which was issued as a result of the Geneva Summit Conference of 1955. We take the position that the Four Powers, former occupying powers, have the responsibility to bring about the reunification of Germany. That was agreed to then by the Soviet Union. It was also agreed that Germany should be reunified in freedom by free elections. We hold to that. Now as to the timing and the precise character of steps that are taken, we naturally take into account very much the views of the Federal Republic as to just how these matters should be handled. Even though it be the fact that from a juridical standpoint the Four Powers have the primary responsibility for the reunification of Germany, it is a fact that the Federal Republic is deeply involved, that we have very close and friendly ties with it, and we would naturally be very much influenced by its views as to the timing and form of any steps taken to bring about this reunification.

\* \* \* \* \*

<sup>1</sup> Department of State press release 676, November 7, 1958.

Q. Mr. Secretary, East German Communists have begun to say repeatedly that West Berlin belongs to East Germany and have begun to compare it to Quemoy. Do you see any potential danger in this kind of propaganda campaign?

A. No. I see no danger in it, because, as I pointed out, we are most solemnly committed to hold West Berlin, if need be by military force. That is a very solemn and formal three-power commitment to which the United States stands bound. I think as long as we stand firm there, and the Communists know we will stand firm, that there is no danger to West Berlin.

\* \* \* \* \*

*Address by Premier Khrushchev at a Soviet-Polish Meeting, on Germany and Berlin, November 10, 1958*<sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

The imperialists have turned the German question into an abiding source of international tension. The ruling circles of Western Germany are doing everything to whip up military passions against the German Democratic Republic, against the Polish People's Republic, against all the socialist countries. Speeches by Chancellor Adenauer and Defence Minister Strauss, the atomic arming of the Bundeswehr and various military exercises all speak of a definite trend in the policy of the ruling circles of Western Germany.

We want to warn the leaders of the Federal Republic of Germany: The road followed by Western Germany today is a road dangerous to peace in Europe and fatal to Western Germany herself. Indeed, can realistically minded politicians today hope for the success of a new "march to the East"? Hitler in his time also did everything to fan war hysteria, in order to prepare the ground for an attack on the Soviet Union. However, it is well known how it all ended. It is not hard to imagine the fate of those who would try to unleash new aggression against the socialist states. No speeches by Chancellor Adenauer or his Minister Strauss can change the balance of forces in favour of imperialism. To march against the East would mean marching to death for Western Germany.

It is high time to realise that the times when the imperialists could act from "positions of strength" with impunity have gone never to return, and try as they may, the imperialists will not be able to change the balance of forces in their favour. Nor should they forget the geographical position of Western Germany which—with military techniques as they are today—would not survive a single day of modern warfare. We do not want another military conflict. It would be fatal to Western Germany and would bring untold calamities to the peoples of other countries. The Soviet Union and the other socialist countries are doing everything to keep the adventurists dreaming of new wars from taking the fatal step. The West German policy-makers would do well to consider more soberly the existing situation and desist from whipping up military passions.

The western press today often says that the government of the Federal Republic of Germany is planning to approach the Soviet

<sup>1</sup> Soviet Embassy in London, *Soviet News*, November 11, 1958.