We made the Korean Armistice which ended the hostilities in Korea.

We participated in the Geneva Conference of 1954 which brought to an end the hostilities in Indochina.

We have sought, and still seek in our Warsaw talks with the Chinese Communists, to assure that in the Taiwan area force should not be relied upon by either side to bring about the reunification of China. And the Government of the Republic of China last October declared principal reliance on peaceful means, and not the use of force, for restoring freedom to the people on the mainland.

We have joined with the Soviet Union in concluding the Austrian State Treaty which liberated Austria.

We have made, a year ago, an agreement for cultural and scientific exchanges with the Soviet Union.

We have met with the Soviet Union at the Summit and indicated a readiness to do so again. But the Soviet Union broke off the negotiations for such a meeting last June when it was made clear we would feel free to talk about some subjects that they disliked.

We are negotiating in good faith for a controlled discontinuance of the testing of nuclear weapons.

We have indicated our readiness to discuss the interrelated problems of Berlin, German reunification, and European security. But so far the Soviet Union insists that we shall only talk about a change in the status of West Berlin—not East Berlin—and about a peace treaty which would be made with the two Germanies and perpetuate the partition of Germany.

The principles of our policy were first announced in 1947. That policy is based, first of all, on our hope of achieving a just peace and on firmness in opposing aggression. Ever since that time the American people and their successive governments have stood by these basic purposes steadfastly and firmly in spite of every kind of provocation.

I assure you that we are as alert and vigilant in seeking every reasonable avenue to achieving a better understanding with those who are hostile to us as we are alert and vigilant in maintaining the kind of strength that will convince them of the folly of aggression.

As President Eisenhower has repeatedly said, there is nothing that we will not do at any time at any place which holds a reasonable prospect of promoting a just peace. But it would be reckless to be intimidated, or lured, into measures which far from ending the present danger would merely increase it.

Note from the American Embassy to the Soviet Foreign Ministry, Protesting Detention of a United States Army Convoy, February 4, 1959 [1]

The Government of the United States of America draws the urgent attention of the Soviet Government to the unwarranted and inadmissible refusal by Soviet authorities of normal transit through the Marienborn Autobahn checkpoint to four two-and-a-half ton trucks and five United States Army personnel charged with their operation.

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[1] Department of State press release 90, February 4, 1959.

This convoy has been held up since 1:05 p.m. Central European time, February 2, 1959.

This convoy, on leaving Berlin, was passed through the Nowawes checkpoint by Soviet personnel, having been found to comply with normal procedures, and followed the established route toward its destination. At the Marienborn checkpoint, the Soviet authorities refused to allow it to proceed.

Despite protests by the United States Political Adviser, Berlin, to the Soviet Political Adviser and by the Chief of Staff of the United States Army, Europe, to the Soviet Military Liaison Mission at Frankfurt-Main, the men and vehicles have not yet been allowed to proceed on their journey.

The action of the Soviet authorities at Marienborn is in clear violation of the United States' rights of access to Berlin via the Berlin-Helmstedt autobahn, exercised by the United States Army in accordance with quadripartite agreements with the USSR, the United Kingdom and France since 1945.

The United States Government expects the Soviet Government to take the necessary measures to allow the men and vehicles to proceed to their destination and to ensure against a repetition of the incident.

Statement by Secretary of State Dulles Upon Returning from Europe, February 9, 1959[1]

I have talked in London, Paris and Bonn with governmental leaders of those countries, and with Secretary-General Spaak of NATO.

We have had a useful exchange of views primarily on the serious situation created by Soviet threats and repudiations concerning Berlin.

We have reconfirmed the unity and firmness of our position expressed in the joint communique of the four powers at Paris December 14. We do not accept the substitution of East Germans for the Soviet Union in its responsibilities toward Berlin and its obligations to us. We are resolved that our position in, and access to, West Berlin shall be preserved. We are in general agreement as to the procedures we shall follow if physical means are invoked to interfere with our rights in this respect.

We discussed the whole problem of Germany. We exchanged views on the prospects for a foreign ministers meeting with the Soviet Union at which all aspects of the German problem can be discussed, not only Berlin and a peace treaty, as the Soviets propose, but also reunification and European security, as the Western Powers have proposed.

We are willing to talk with the Soviets in a sincere effort to reach agreements.

The leaders of the British, French, German and United States governments will keep in close contact on the German situation, and their foreign ministers contemplate meetings as may be appropriate. Officers at other levels will be in consultation on specific questions.

I return encouraged by the unity, understanding and resolution in the three countries I visited.

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[1] Department of State press release 99, February 9, 1959.