

'Conference of the Big Three in Yalta' from the Luxemburger Wort

Caption: On 13 February 1945, the Luxembourg daily newspaper Luxemburger Wort comments on the outcome of the Yalta Conference and reflects upon the fate of post-war Germany.

Source: Luxemburger Wort. Für Wahrheit und Recht. 13.02.1945, n° 44. Luxembourg: Imprimerie Saint-Paul. "Konferenz der Drei in Jalta", p. 1.

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Last updated: 06/07/2016

Conference of the Big Three in Yalta

Complete unanimity in the spirit of the Atlantic Charter

LW. The veil has at last been raised on the meeting being held in Yalta on the Black Sea, the city once hailed as one of the most picturesque and delightful resorts in the Crimea, but which, thanks to the destructive rage of the Germans, has had to pay such a heavy price in war. The meeting will be referred to in diplomatic circles as the 'Crimea Conference' at the special request of Marshal Stalin.

The Communiqué about this Conference published yesterday evening is a vote of confidence in ultimate victory and carries with it the potential of an unconditional guarantee of future world peace. Significantly, the document talks not only about eliminating National Socialism once and for all but also classifies 'German militarism' as equivalent to National Socialism. The attempt to curb German militarism failed at Versailles. That missed opportunity allowed the rise of National Socialism, plunging first of all Germany and then the whole of Europe into a disaster even greater than the First World War.

The declaration of the Crimea Conference sounds the death-knell for German militarism. The world can now be reassured that the 'Big Three' — Roosevelt, Churchill and Stalin — are not prepared to allow even the slightest trace of it to remain. It will mean neither annihilation nor destruction for the German people as such; it will make it clear to them, however, that only by the rejection of militarism and any desire for world domination can they ever hope to lead 'decent' lives and be included in the community of nations.

That is a result to which the German people may be able to adapt only with time, since the need for military conquest is deep-rooted in the Germans, both in their temperament and in their upbringing. The German people will have to learn to live by a code that will not always be to their liking. Having brought so much suffering on the world, they must now overcome their own desires and fight for their right to live. The document signed in Yalta by the three greatest statesmen of our time gives them the opportunity to do so.