

'End of the road for "The Four in a Jeep"' from the Neuer Kurier (15 May 1955)

Caption: Ten years after the end of the war, Austria is preparing to regain its freedom through the signing of the State Treaty on 15 May 1955. The Vienna daily newspaper Neuer Kurier comments on the reactions of the international press.

Source: Neuer Kurier. ; Herausgeber DICHEM, Hans. 15.05.1955. Wien: Neuer Kurier G.m.b.H. "Endstation für die Vier im Jeep", p. 2.

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The response to the Moscow talks:

End of the road for ‘The Four in a Jeep’

Newspapers interpret Moscow’s concessions as a desire for détente

Vienna (Neuer Kurier). Ever since yesterday, the entire world press has been totally astounded by the successful conclusion to the talks held between the Austrian Government delegation and the Soviet Government. Apart from the speculation about the grounds for the revision of Soviet policy towards Austria, the assumption emerged in numerous papers that the Soviet Union really did want to introduce a new era of détente. Over and above that, various commentators see in Soviet concessions towards Austria the intention to create a model for a possible solution to the German Question.

The liberal English daily *The Manchester Guardian* emphasised that, behind the new Soviet tactic, there might be the wish to establish better relations over Germany. At all events, Moscow has come up with a pleasant surprise: what happens next will be followed with keen interest.

The Communist London newspaper *The Daily Worker*, generally seen as being manipulated from outside, writes that the conclusion of the international treaty will contribute towards a remarkable relaxation of tension in Europe and will clear the way for further negotiations.

The New York Times sees in the Moscow talks a ‘drastic tactical revision through which the frozen relations between East and West could be thawed once again. If the Soviets do not insist on the inclusion of provisions within the international treaty, whereby they would be allowed to reoccupy Austria on the accusation that Soviet treaty guarantees were being breached, the way could be open to the conclusion of a treaty.’

The Christian Science Monitor deals with the much discussed question of neutrality and rejects the imposition of neutrality on Austria. ‘Enforced neutrality might create a precedent, and Soviet Russia would no doubt press for the German Question also to be settled according to this model.’

The *Basler Nationalzeitung* writes that Moscow’s concessions vis-à-vis Austria are presumably addressed to West Germany, ‘which is meant to understand that it could have reunification so long as it negotiates directly with the East German authorities.’

‘If we’re not completely mistaken, the Austrians should be heartily congratulated’, states an article in the Munich-based *Süddeutsche Zeitung*. Ten years after the end of the war, Austria will once again be a free country, and no longer will anybody be allowed to interfere in its legislation or government. ‘The Four in a Jeep’ will no longer patrol the streets of Vienna.

The French dailies — with the exception of the Communist papers, which are still waiting for publication of the communiqué — judge the stance taken by the Soviet Government to be its ‘final effort’ to obstruct the Treaties of Paris.