

'In the interests of peace and security' from Pravda

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In the interests of peace and security

The Leninist principle of peaceful coexistence between countries with different social systems was one of the most important features of the foreign policy of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and of the Soviet socialist state. This principle lies at the very heart of their efforts to reduce tension and improve the international climate in Europe and throughout the world.

The principle of peaceful coexistence constitutes the only rational and promising basis for relations between countries with different social systems. Our country's relations with the Federal Republic of Germany are firmly based upon this principle.

For many years when crucial international political issues were being addressed, the Soviet Union and the FRG frequently found themselves in opposite camps. However the lessons of history and the vital interests of the people of both countries and of Europe require the removal of all obstacles to establishing peaceful coexistence between our countries.

The lengthy negotiations of 12 August in Moscow resulted in the signing of a treaty between the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the Federal Republic of Germany. It is gratifying that, despite the complexity of the talks and the different approaches to the issues at hand, a solution that satisfied both parties was finally reached.

As the treaty states, the Soviet Union and Federal Republic of Germany consider maintaining international peace and achieving détente as the important objectives of their policies. They express their intent to normalise the situation in Europe and to foster peaceful relations between all European countries based on the status quo in the region. The parties to the treaty are convinced that their countries' peaceful coexistence on the basis of the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter corresponds to the hopes and aspirations of the people, and to the broader interests of international peace.

Both countries are unanimous in recognising that peace in Europe can only be preserved if neither side violates existing borders. The parties are committed to strict respect for the territorial integrity of all European states within existing borders. They declare that they have no territorial claims on any other state nor will they advance such claims in the future.

The Soviet Union and FRG recognise as inviolable, now and in the future, the borders of all European states as of the date of the signing of the present treaty, including the Oder-Neisse line, being the western frontier of the Polish Peoples Republic and the border between the Federal Republic of Germany and the German Democratic Republic.

These treaty provisions are of great significance, since the fundamental issue for securing peace in Europe is recognising the inviolability of the borders created as a result of the Second World War.

The treaty stresses that relations between the USSR and the FRG and issues affecting the maintenance of international peace and security shall be governed by the purposes and principles set forth in the UN Charter. They shall settle their disputes exclusively by peaceful means. On issues affecting European or international security, the parties shall refrain from the threat or use of force. The treaty does not prejudice any bilateral or multilateral treaties or agreements previously entered into by either party.

The document signed yesterday lays the foundations for the further strengthening relations between the Soviet Union and the Federal Republic of Germany and for buttressing European security. It is to be hoped that, following the signing of this treaty, practical steps will be taken in this regard.

During the negotiations there was an exchange of views on the prospects for further improvement in relations between the USSR and the FRG, including in the economic, scientific and technical fields. This was reflected in the treaty. The parties expressed their resolve to improve and extend cooperation, including in terms of economic, scientific, technical and cultural links in the interests of both countries.

The commitments entered into by the governments in signing the treaty impose considerable responsibility upon them both towards their own people, and to the whole of Europe. Full respect for the treaty provisions and an unswerving commitment to implementing them all will undoubtedly become important elements in maintaining stability and peace on the European continent.

The entire course of events in Europe and the natural course of international relations prepared the way for the treaty between the USSR and the FRG. This document is part of a whole series of measures on the part of European countries to improve the situation and lay a stable foundation for security in Europe. It is in line with the overall policy of ensuring lasting peace that all the socialist member-states of the Warsaw Pact are consistently pursuing.

The successful conclusion to the Soviet-West German negotiations has caught the attention of politicians and the public throughout the world. The foreign press has justifiably pointed out that the significance of this event concerns much more than just the bilateral relations between the USSR and the FRG and that the signing of the treaty will improve the political climate in Europe and may play a definitive role in improving the international situation in general. However, hostile voices have also been heard, but they are the voices of those who are strangers to political realism and to the genuine concern for a peaceful future for the people of Europe.

The treaty between the USSR and the FRG is of critical importance. It is a political act, dictated by experience, and is in the interest of lasting peace.