

Protest note from the Soviet Union to the United States (1 October 1949)

Caption: On 1 October 1949, in a note to the US Government, the Soviet Union deplores the birth of the Federal Republic of Germany (FRG).

Source: United States-Department of State. Documents on Germany 1944-1985. Washington: Department of State, [s.d.]. 1421 p. (Department of State Publication 9446). p. 274-278.

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Note From the Soviet Union to the United States Protesting the “Formation of a Separate Government for the Western Zones of Germany”, October 1, 1949

In connection with the formation in Bonn on September 20 of this year of a separate government for the American, British and French zones of occupation of Germany, the Soviet Government deems it necessary to state the following:

The formation of a separate government for the Western zones of Germany cannot be qualified otherwise than as completion of the policy of splitting Germany which has been pursued by the Governments of the United States of America, Great Britain and France during the past few years, in violation of the Potsdam Agreement under which these States, jointly with the Soviet Union assumed the obligation of treating Germany as one single whole and of facilitating her transformation into a democratic and peace-loving State.

By creating a separate government for Western Germany the three Powers have thereby also violated the decisions adopted in June of this year at the Paris session of the Foreign Ministers' Council according to which the Governments of the United States, Great Britain, France, and the U.S.S.R. undertook to continue their efforts to achieve the restoration of the economic and political unity of Germany.

This step of the Governments of the United States, Great Britain and France constitutes a violation not only of obligations they assumed as regards the preservation of the unity of Germany but also of obligations concerning the conclusion of a peace treaty with Germany, inasmuch as the formation of a separate West German State leads to impermissible delay in the conclusion of a peace treaty with Germany, contrary to the decisions of the Potsdam Conference.

The Soviet Government regards as completely groundless the attempts of the Governments of the United States of America, Great Britain and France to justify their actions in the creation of a separate government in Bonn as being in the interests of the German population. The facts show that attempts of this nature are without grounds, inasmuch as it is known to all that no one even asked the opinion of the German people on this question, and inasmuch as it is also known that all their measures for the creation of a separate government in Western Germany, including also the so-called “Bonn Constitution,” were carried out by the occupation authorities of the three Powers, relying solely on a narrow group of specially hand-picked old reactionary politicians of Western Germany, closely linked with foreign financial circles and dependent on these circles.

The “Bonn Constitution” was drawn up under the direct pressure of the occupation authorities of the Western Powers who, in essence, dictated its main provisions. In doing so a federative system was imposed on the German people with which the majority of the German people is not in agreement. The “Bonn Constitution” not only does not contain any provisions whatever which would restrict the dominating role of the German monopolies and Junkerdom, which were the inspirers and organizers of German aggression and served as the mainstay of the hitlerite regime, but even frees their hands for further anti-democratic activity.

Characteristic of the “Bonn Constitution” also is the existence of Article 24 in which it is directly pointed out that the West German State can “delegate its sovereign powers to inter-State agencies” and give “consent to restricting its sovereign rights,” which clearly converts this puppet “State” into an obedient tool of the Western occupation authorities in the realization of their aggressive plans in Europe.

In reality the “Bonn Constitution” is merely an appendage of the so-called “Occupation Statute,” prescribed for Western Germany by the Governments of the United States of America, Great Britain and France. The attempt of the three Powers to make it appear that the purpose of this Occupation Statute is to “enable the German people to exercise democratic self-government,” as was stated in the communiqué on the Washington negotiations in April of this year, is in complete contradiction to the basic provisions of this Statute.

As is known, under this Statute the major functions of the state administration are the monopoly of the

occupation authorities, while the German people in actual fact are omitted from any sort of participation in the carrying out of these functions, not to mention the fact that the introduction of the Occupation Statute is an expression of the policy directed towards thwarting the conclusion of the German peace treaty and an impermissible prolongation of the occupation regime in Germany.

It follows from all this that the formation of the Bonn separate government is incompatible with the decisions of the Potsdam Conference and is a gross violation of these decisions, which are based on the necessity to maintain the unity of Germany on democratic and peace-loving principles. At the same time, it is perfectly obvious that the formation of this separate government is only another and, moreover, far-reaching manifestation of that same policy of splitting Germany which, in violation of decisions of the Potsdam Conference, has been pursued by the Governments of the United States of America, Great Britain and France during the past three years.

As far back as December 1946, the Governments of the United States of America and Britain concluded an agreement on the fusion of the two zones, thereby grossly violating the agreement of the Four Powers on joint control over Germany. At that time attempts were made to justify these splitting actions by economic considerations, with references that the fusion of the American and British occupation zones would not allegedly lead to the dismemberment of Germany, nor to thwarting the policy towards Germany earlier agreed upon among the Four Powers.

In reality this act of the Governments of the United States and Great Britain marked the beginning of an open turn in the policy of these States — from the Potsdam Agreement on the unity of Germany to the policy of splitting Germany.

During 1947, further measures were put through in the American and British zones of occupation of Germany directed towards deepening the splitting and dismemberment of Germany, which found expression in particular in the decision of the Anglo-American occupation authorities on the separation of the Ruhr Region from Germany, and the removal of the Ruhr from the control of the Four Powers and its transfer to the control of the United States of America and Great Britain, as well as in separate Anglo-American measures which amounted in actual fact to abandoning the Potsdam decisions on the democratic reconstruction and demilitarization of Germany.

At the London conferences in 1948, the three Powers, with the participation of the Benelux countries, adopted a decision on the implementation of fresh measures for the splitting of Germany. These measures were expressed in the carrying out of a separate currency reform in the Western zones of Germany and in the Western sectors of Berlin, as well as in open preparations for the creation of a government for the Western zones of Germany.

The policy of the splitting and dismemberment of Germany had its culmination in the decisions adopted at the conference of representatives of the United States of America, Great Britain and France in Washington in April, 1949 — on the “Occupation Statute” for Western Germany, which has been made the basis of the “Bonn Constitution,” and also on the formation of a so-called “international authority” for the Ruhr, and in the conclusion of a special agreement on tripartite Anglo-French-American control over Western Germany, which is definitely aimed at the destruction of the basic agreement between the U.S.S.R., the United States of America, Great Britain and France on the quadripartite control machinery in Germany.

Throughout the whole of the past period beginning with 1946, the Soviet Government called the attention of the Governments of the United States of America, Great Britain and France to the impermissibility of violations of the Potsdam Agreement on the unity of Germany, and to the impermissibility of thwarting the decisions of the Four Powers on the democratic reconstruction and demilitarization of Germany which formed the basis of all joint decisions of the Four Powers on the policy towards Germany. In this connection the Soviet Government pointed to the disastrous consequences of the policy of the three Western Powers of splitting Germany and restoring the dominating position of reactionary, militaristic and revanchist elements in Western Germany, which in the past had been the mainstay of German militarism and the hitlerite regime and which had again raised their heads immediately after the formation of the West German State. Such a

policy on the part of the three Powers can be explained only by the fact that it gives expression to the endeavours of certain imperialist circles to utilize Western Germany as a bridgehead for the realization of the aggressive plans of these circles, which transforms Western Germany into a new centre of disturbance in Europe.

For its part, the Soviet Government has waged a tireless struggle against the splitting of Germany, insisting, in conformity with the decisions of the Potsdam Conference, on the setting up of all-German economic agencies as the first step in the formation of an all-German democratic government. More than two years ago, the Soviet Government proposed to the Governments of the United States, Great Britain and France to begin taking measures necessary for the setting up of a government of democratic Germany and also to begin drafting a German peace treaty. However, the Governments of the three Western Powers rejected these proposals of the Soviet Union, continued to pursue their policy of deepening the splitting of Germany, which led to thwarting the conclusion of a peace treaty and to protracting the occupation of Germany for a long period, not allowing the possibility of establishing a stable peace in Europe.

Finally, at the Paris session of the Foreign Ministers' Council in June of this year, the Governments of the three Western Powers again refused to accept the proposal of the Soviet Union for the formation of an all-German State Council on the basis of German economic agencies already existing in the Eastern and Western zones, as an economic and administrative centre with governmental functions which would have been a first step in the formation of an all-German democratic government. The Governments of the three Western Powers refused also to accept the Soviet Union's proposal on the preparation of a German peace treaty and on the withdrawal of occupation troops from Germany within one year after the conclusion of the peace treaty.

Thus, throughout the past few years, the Governments of the United States of America, Great Britain and France have not only not fulfilled the obligations they assumed under the Potsdam Agreement, but in direct violation of these obligations have pursued a policy of splitting Germany and of delaying in every way the conclusion of a German peace treaty, breaking the joint agreements of the Four Powers on the democratic reconstruction and demilitarization of Germany, now consummating this anti-democratic policy by the formation of a separate West German Government, which has been put into the hands of yesterday's servitors of the Hitler regime.

The Soviet Government deems it necessary to draw attention to the extremely serious responsibility which rests with the Government of the United States of America in connection with the policy in Germany pursued by the United States of America jointly with Great Britain and France, which has led to the formation in Bonn of an anti-national separate government that adopts a hostile attitude to the decisions of the Potsdam Conference on the democratic reconstruction and demilitarization of Germany and towards the obligations imposed upon Germany, an attitude incompatible with the interests of the peace-loving peoples of Europe.