

The Allied High Commission (AHC) in the FRG

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The Allied High Commission in the Federal Republic of Germany

[Commentary] Even after the three Western zones were merged to form the Federal Republic of Germany, the new state remained under occupation. The Western Allies chose as their headquarters the lofty former grand hotel on the Petersberg overlooking the new Federal capital. The Military Governors have now become High Commissioners who represent the interests of the occupying powers. Adenauer on his way to present his cabinet. Germany remains a defeated country; it has no essential sovereign rights. The Allies have the final say with regard to legislation and foreign relations.

[Shepard Stone] At that time, I was actually the right-hand man to the US High Commissioner, John J. McCloy. Therefore, I obviously knew Adenauer; I was often present at these conferences and so on ... We heard that Schumacher once said that the Federal Chancellor was the Allies' Chancellor. I can tell you that the Allied High Commissioners would have laughed. Sometimes they thought that they were being ordered about by Adenauer alone. He was always resolute, aware of the dignity of the Federal Republic, despite being only newly established, and that Germany was the defeated country. From our perspective, he consistently did a first-class job of defending German interests.