

Statement by the Saar Communist Party on the Paris Agreement (26 October 1954)

Caption: On 26 October 1954, the Saar Communist Party fiercely criticises the agreement, signed three days earlier, between the Federal Republic of Germany (FRG) and France on the economic and political status of the Saar.

Source: Neue Zeit : Zeitung des schaffenden Volkes an der Saar. Organ der Kommunistischen Partei. 26.10.1954, Nr. 99; 9. Jg. Saarbrücken: Kommunistische Partei - Landesverband Saar. "Die Saar war, ist und bleibt deutsch", p. 1-2.

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The Saar was, is, and must remain German — an inseparable part of a united, democratic Germany

In Paris a plot has been hatched against the peace and security of the German people and all the peoples of Europe.

Under pressure from the Americans, the agreements reached in London have now been formalised. All the efforts of the war strategists in Paris, building on their work in London, are focused on creating conditions in which German militarism can be revived.

That, in essence, is the situation.

West Germany is to have an aggressive army of half a million men, later to be increased, as de facto Minister for War Theodor Blank tells us, to 60 divisions. West Germany will have 1 350 fighter aircraft and a navy, and its industries will manufacture the types of weapon needed for the country to rearm.

West Germany will be a member of the aggressive North Atlantic Pact 'for an unlimited period of time'. The armies of occupation will remain in West Germany as NATO forces for an unlimited period — at least 50 years. The Americans will go on being allowed to deploy atomic weapons and prepare for nuclear war on German soil.

The mercenary divisions of West Germany will be under the supreme command of US General Gruenther.

This war plan is an anti-German, anti-European plan which will never be endorsed by the peoples of Europe.

The 'Agreement between the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany and the Government of the French Republic on the Saar Statute' represents the Federal Government's willingness to see our Saar home separated from Germany and, coming after Adenauer's signing of the Schuman Plan, is a further betrayal of the German Saar. It is the price paid by the war chancellor in Bonn to ensure that the revival of German militarism can proceed.

The outcome of the talks vindicates our Party's views to date on the nature of 'Europeanisation'. This agreement is a necessary compromise between German and French monopoly interests, all with a view to the realisation of American war plans. This compromise will be presented as a 'foreign policy success for France', *deceiving French public opinion and securing the French National Assembly's endorsement of West German rearmament*. On the other hand, the German imperialists need this compromise in order, *by temporarily ceding the Saar, to build up mercenary divisions*, the instrument they intend to use to realise their policy of expansion.

The Hoffmann Government went along with this policy.

As a result, in pursuit of renewed German militarism, Adenauer and Hoffmann are prepared to sacrifice the unity and independence, the sovereignty and security of our Fatherland. Implementation of the Paris Agreement would make German reunification impossible for a very long time, and, as a result of German militarist rearmament, would conjure up the spectre of war, the deadly foe of our people and of all peoples. Germany would remain divided for a lengthy period, and the German people's natural and justified demand for unity would remain unfulfilled.

The Paris Agreement is against the national interests of the German people. If implemented it will mean civil war, with brother taking up arms against brother.

Neither Adenauer nor Hoffmann has the right to conclude treaties of any kind on behalf of the German people. *We shall never give up our first basic principle, the right to self-determination.* The German people

will never allow the Western forces of occupation to occupy West Germany for an unlimited period, or leave the power of deciding the issue of German reunification, vital to our nation, in their hands. For that reason our people — and the Saarlanders are a part of our people — will never recognise the Paris Agreement.

Germans in the Saar!

The Paris Agreement means that the Saar remains cut off from Germany — economic union with France remains — and the exploitation of our people by foreign monopoly interests continues. Indeed, that exploitation will worsen with the connivance of skinflint French and German employers.

To the people of the Saar it makes no difference whether it is Mr Grandval or a 'European commissioner' who carries out the orders of foreign masters in the Saar. All that changes is the window-dressing behind which the Saar's colonial status is concealed. The American command centre of the European Coal and Steel Community, the military and economic cornerstone of preparations for war, is to be established in Saarbrücken, and 'Europeanisation' of the Saar will drive American war plans forward, exploiting our Saar home entirely in the American interest.

The guarantee of political and personal freedoms in the Saar as envisaged in the Saar Treaty is a red herring. The efforts of Adenauer and Hoffmann are, as is evident from everyday life, in fact designed to block all and any endeavours to free and unite our people. Every day they trample the democratic rights and freedoms of the people underfoot. To us freedom and democracy means the freedom to take decisions against the enemies of unity, against a policy of separatism, in favour of a unified, democratic, peace-loving and independent Germany.

All good Germans must feel disgust at the Paris Agreement and Adenauer's surrender of the Saar. *This Agreement is contrary to international law.*

According to the Potsdam Agreement, which is the only basis in international law for post-war arrangements in Germany and points the way towards a democratic and peace-loving Germany, the Saar is an inseparable part of Germany.

Only the reunification of Germany on a democratic basis and a fair and democratic peace treaty which restores the unity of Germany — including the Saar — can properly reflect the interests of Germany and the interests and security of all peoples, and can smooth the path towards peace.

The new Soviet proposals — for resumption of the four Allied Powers' suspended talks on Germany and discussion of measures to set up a collective system of security in Europe — offer our people new opportunities to move rapidly towards peaceful resolution of the issues vital to Germany.

As patriotic forces in the whole of Germany unite to bring about a new conference of the Allied Powers through all-German understanding, negotiation and activity, we shall do what we can to help bring about a peaceful solution to the national issue and so eliminate a source of danger in Europe.

The Saar branch of the Communist Party calls on all Germans in the Saar, in this hour of serious need, to spare no effort in ensuring that the Paris Agreement is not ratified.

We have not heard the last of the matter

Popular struggle was successful in blocking the European Defence Community Treaty, and it can also destroy this new attack on peace and security in Europe. It is up to us to thwart the intentions of the warmonger politicians. The efforts of all patriots — in the East and West of our Fatherland — spearheaded by a united working class have the power to force a peaceful resolution of the German question, of which the future of the Saar is one part. That struggle has the support of all the peoples of Europe who, like us, want security and peace in Europe.

Together in the struggle!

Workers, peasants, citizens and young people, unite!

Make implementation of the Paris Agreement impossible! Speak out at your workplace, in trade unions and organisations! Demand the rejection of the Paris Agreement! Appeal to the members of the *Landtag*!

Force the *Landtag* and government to say yes to all-German understanding based on the *Volkskammer*'s letter, to say yes to all-German talks. To say yes to resumption of the Allied Powers' talks on Germany, with the whole of Germany represented. To say yes to the European conference on security and peace in Europe!

Long live our people's just struggle for national unity, for a democratic and peace-loving Germany! Our common pledge at this hour: the Saar was, is, and must remain German!

Communist Party

Saar branch