

For its future the other independent Germany state, the Germany Democratic Republic, has chosen for itself the road of peace and social progress. Here there is no room for the revival of militarism or for a policy of aggression and revenge. The Government of the German Democratic Republic has renounced compulsory military service and the creation of a mass army. The contrast and division between the two German states is also accentuated by the fact that they belong to counterposed military-political alignments of powers and are bound by definite commitments arising from affiliation to these alignments.

Thus Germany's post-war development brought to the fore problems quite different from those which confronted the four powers in the first years after the defeat of Hitler Germany. The Western powers suggest that the German problem be discussed in all its aspects but at the same time they themselves have destroyed the basis for such a discussion. There is no trace of a joint four-power policy towards Germany. No one for instance can hold the U.S.S.R. responsible for the fact that the Federal Republic of Germany has adopted a militaristic road of development. It is commonly known that the U.S.S.R. repeatedly warned the Western powers of the danger to the peace and to Germany's unity inherent in such a road of development of Western Germany. On the other hand, hardly anyone would credit the Western powers for the fact that peace-loving democratic forces have triumphed and gained strength in the German Democratic Republic today.

It is still possible to restore the co-operation of the four powers on the important problems connected with Germany. Such possibility is offered by the signing of a German peace treaty. Under a peace treaty the German Democratic Republic and the Federal Republic of Germany would assume like obligations which would preclude the possibility of a revival of German militarism and this would assure conditions for the peaceful development of both German states and relieve the European nations from the depressing danger of war. The Soviet Government's proposal for the conclusion of a peace treaty with Germany has by now received the full approval of nine states who participated with their armed forces in the war against Hitler Germany. The population of these countries numbers nearly one thousand million. At the same time, this proposal has met with support and approval of broad sections of public opinion in many other countries. Are these not convincing facts in favour of signing a peace treaty with Germany in the early future?

As to the problem of Germany's reunification, the Soviet Government clearly and definitely stated in its reply that it considers impossible and impermissible interference in the affairs of the two German states and their substitution by anyone in solving the reunification problem. This problem can and must be solved by the Germans themselves. The only thing the four powers could do in that direction without infringing upon the sovereignty of the German Democratic Republic and the Federal Republic of Germany is to facilitate the removal of the present estrangement in the relations between the two German states and promote a rapprochement and understanding between them. For the purpose of easing the task of reunifying Germany, the Soviet Government has expressed readiness to exert such an influence, having among other things supported the proposal of the GDR Government for the establishment of a German Confederation.