

No. 59/2 EXCHANGE OF NOTES BETWEEN THE SOVIET UNION AND CANADA

Text of Notes exchanged between the Government of the Soviet Union and the Government of Canada concerning the possibility of negotiations taking place on problems relating to Germany, including a peace treaty and the question of Berlin. The Soviet Note is in reply to Canada's Note of February 17, 1959. It is essentially a summary of the Notes sent on March 2, 1959, to the United Kingdom, the United States, and France.

SOVIET NOTE TO CANADA, MARCH 2, 1959.

The Soviet Government, referring to its Note of January 10, 1959, and the Note of February 17 of the Canadian Government in reply, considers it necessary to draw the following to the attention of the Canadian Government. On February 16, 1959, the Soviet Government received from the Governments of the U.S.A., U.K., and France Notes in reply to its Notes of January 19 to these Governments. These Notes do not contain a reply to the specific proposals of the Soviet Union concerning the conclusion of a peace treaty with Germany and the convocation for this purpose of a peace conference of states which took part in the war against Germany, and concerning the normalization of the situation in Berlin. The Governments of the U.S.A., the U.K. and France would substitute for the solution of these problems, which are of cardinal importance for the consolidation of peace in Europe and for the future of the German nation, discussions about the desirability of a study by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the four powers "of the German problem in all its aspects" and for their part do not advance any suggestions on the substance of the problem.

On March 2 the Soviet Government sent new Notes to the Governments of the U.S.A., and U.K. and France. It drew the attention of the governments of the Western powers to the fact that the very presentation of the German question in their Notes of February 16 indicates their unwillingness to take into consideration both the actual situations existing in Germany and the demands of common sense. Whereas, fourteen years ago, Germany, though divided into zones, was a country with a single social structure, today two German states exist and are developing in different directions. If the governments of the Western powers in fact strive for a solution of the German problem on a realistic basis, they cannot close their eyes to this fact; the more so since they took the initiative by setting up the West German state. Having set a course towards the dismemberment of Germany from the very beginning of the occupation, the U.S.A., the U.K. and France at the same time prepared the rearmament of the West German state they had created. They then cast aside the Potsdam Agreement which was key-noted by the idea of eradicating German militarism, an idea which the peoples of Europe had arrived at through untold sacrifices and privation. Subsequent events showed that their main concern was to draw Western Germany into their military alignment. The participation of the Federal Republic of Germany in NATO enabled them openly to set about creating the Bundeswehr and demanding its arming with nuclear missile weapons. It is a result of the policy of rearming and encouraging the militaristic forces in Western Germany that the European peoples have to live again in an atmosphere of anxiety and alarm.