

Arising out of the above considerations, and wishing to place the peaceful settlement of Germany on a practical basis, the Soviet Government has prepared a draft peace treaty and is now bringing this to the attention of the Canadian Government.

Aspirations to divide the world into conquerors and conquered are alien to the Soviet State, as also are feelings of vengeance towards its former military opponents. At the basis of the Soviet draft peace treaty is placed the idea of the peaceful democratic development of Germany. The restoration of the full sovereignty of the German people over Germany, her territory and air space, is provided for by the draft. No limits will be imposed on Germany regarding the development of her peaceful economy, trade, seafaring, and access to world markets. Germany's right to have its national armed forces, necessary for the defence of the country, is recognized. All these clauses in the draft, open to the German people wide opportunity for peaceful constructive work and secure for it a position of equality with the other nations of the world.

Naturally, the draft treaty provides for certain military limitations which in the conviction of the Soviet Government correspond to the national interests of the German people who have twice crossed the gulf of world wars, and also to the general interests of peace. Among the military obligations placed on Germany are, in the first place, the prohibition of the production of nuclear and rocket weapons and the equipping of German armed forces with them. This would have furthered the strengthening of security in Europe and helped to remove one of the important obstacles dividing the two German states at the present time.

The clause of the peace treaty of significant importance for guaranteeing peace in Europe is that which excludes the possibility of Germany being drawn into any military groupings directed against any state which was in a state of war against Hitlerite Germany, and in which all the four main allied powers of the anti-Hitlerite coalition - the U.S.S.R., the U.S.A., Great Britain and France do not participate. The inclusion of this clause in the treaty would, to a large extent, spare mankind the threat of a new war, since no one will deny that this threat is much greater precisely in the presence of a military union of one or several of the great powers with Germany, which is directed against another great power.

In view of the foregoing the Soviet Government proposes to convene in two months' time in Warsaw or Prague a peace conference to examine the draft peace treaty with Germany which has been put forward, and to work out and sign an agreed text of the treaty. On one side, representatives of the states who participated with their armed forces in the war against Germany would take part in