

its views in municipal elections on December 7. The Communist Party ran candidates in these elections and, until three days before the voting, agreed with the democratic parties that the voting could be regarded as a referendum on the Soviet proposals. In the event, a record 93 per cent went to the polls, and the meager 2.7 per cent polled by the communists in the previous elections was cut to less than 2 per cent. There is no doubt about the desire of the West Berliners to remain with the West and, to that end, to retain in their city the Western garrisons of about 10,000 men.

The Foreign Ministers of the United States, United Kingdom, France and Germany, met to discuss Berlin on December 14 in Paris. They issued a joint statement expressing determination to maintain their rights in Berlin, rejecting the Soviet Union's unilateral repudiation of the agreements on Berlin, and refusing all dealings with the East German regime. The fifteen NATO Foreign Ministers, meeting two days later, associated themselves fully with the four-power declaration and went on to express willingness to consider the Berlin question with the Russians in the context of an agreement on Germany as a whole.

On December 31, the three Western powers delivered replies to the Soviet Notes of November 27. All three powers refused to accept the Soviet repudiation of the agreements on Berlin, or to negotiate with the U.S.S.R. under an ultimatum. They reiterated, however, their willingness to discuss Berlin with the Soviets within the framework of discussions of the entire German problem and European security.

On January 10, the Soviet Government proposed in a new series of notes that there be a conference called within two months to prepare a peace treaty with Germany and that this conference be attended on the one hand by the twenty-nine countries which the Soviet Union listed as having fought against Germany, and on the other by representatives of the two German states — the Federal Republic of Germany and the German Democratic Republic. The U.S.S.R. proposed that the conference be held in Warsaw or Prague within two months and submitted a draft peace treaty. Under its terms the parts of Germany would be dealt with as separate units, both having the right to sign the final document. It would also be possible, according to the Soviet draft, for a confederation of the two Germanys to add its signature. According to the Soviet proposals, the two Germanys would remain free of military alliances, reduce their forces to those necessary for their own defence and would not possess nuclear weapons, missiles, bomber aircraft or submarines. Foreign troops would be withdrawn from both parts of Germany, and West Berlin would have the status of a demilitarized free city. The present Oder-Neisse frontier between East Germany and Poland would be recognized as final.

Chancellor Adenauer immediately rejected the Soviet draft treaty as "brutal" and his Foreign Minister added that it was a "perfect catalogue of all that is unacceptable". Secretary of State Dulles criticized the proposed treaty because it envisages a neutralized Germany in the heart of Europe, unallied to either of the two major groups; this would, he thought, create a dangerous power vacuum. Nevertheless, he and other Western leaders reiterated their willingness to discuss the whole German problem with the U.S.S.R.

Although not a party to the series of agreements of 1944, 1945 and 1949 between the United Kingdom, the United States, France and the Soviet Union with respect to the status of Berlin, and access to it, Canada has a