Given this state of instability, even a slightly destabilizing political event in one nation of the region could precipitate military intervention, quickly drawing in the two superpowers. In any case, Germans from the East as well as the West must feel a continual concern that their countries would be the battlefield, even in the very unlikely event that the conflict could be controlled and not escalate to other countries. Not enough information is available from East Germany, but in West Germany, citizens as well as politicians, from the left to the right of the political spectrum, have become alarmed about their precarious situation and they question whether "deterrence" can save them.[4]

West Germans think that they have three options from which to choose: closer military association with France; rapprochement with the East; or joining with other nations of their region. The first, closer association with France, would be resented and feared by most other European nations as well as by many Germans, and, in the long run, would not improve military security. The second, rapprochement with the East, would be opposed by most Germans--and not accepted by the rest of Europe. The third option involves forming a close alliance

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[4] Gene Sharp with foreword by George F. Kennan, Making Europe Unconquerable, Ballinger, Massachusetts, 1985. Dietrich Fischer, Preventing Nuclear War, Rowman, New Jersey, 1984. Stephen Tiedke, Alternative Military Defence Strategies, Bulletin of Peace Proposals, Vol. 15, No. 1, 1984. Alvin M. Saperstein, Depletion Zones: An Unbalanced Non-Provocative Defence in Europe, Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, Stockholm, 1983. Derek Paul (ed.), Defending Europe, Taylor & Francis, London 1985. Sverre Lodgaard and Marek Thee, Nuclear Disarmament, Taylor & Francis, London, 1988. Dieter S. Lutz, Zur Theorie Defensiver Angriffsfähigkeit, IFS, Hamburg University, 1987. In addition, see: special issue on Alternative Defence, Journal of Peace Research, Vol. 21, No. 2, 1984; and a special issue, Alternative Defence and Security, Bulletin of Peace Proposals, Vol. 9, No. 4, 1978.