

The meeting emphasized that we cannot relax either in defence or in diplomacy, in the face of new Soviet tactics. This was agreed by all of us. If the Soviet Union can be made to realize the determination of the fifteen NATO members to work closely together to resist aggression and infiltration, the world will be spared a lot of unnecessary trouble.

The Council meeting also showed that the NATO countries sincerely seek to relax tensions but that they will not be deceived by mere technical manoeuvres. In this period of Soviet zigzag tactics NATO must be both strong and flexible; it must be strong militarily, though it is more than a military alliance, and it must be imaginative and ready to meet new diplomatic situations. The Paris meeting reflected the firmness with which these views are held by NATO governments.

The communiqué mentions German questions a good many times. At the recent Geneva Foreign Ministers' Conference the Soviet Union unmistakably revealed their real policy towards Germany. They are not merely opposed to German rearmament or membership in NATO. They would not even be satisfied with a "neutralized" Germany, whatever that may mean. Their present price for German reunification was a fully communist satellite state. Therefore, it was obvious they would not permit free elections. We agreed in Paris that it was of primary importance to make this clear to public opinion and to pin the responsibility for a divided Germany where it belongs.

At Paris the German situation was re-appraised with care and candour, and it was concluded that the NATO countries should continue their efforts "to secure the re-unification of Germany in freedom, such reunification continuing to be held by them as an essential condition for the establishment of a just and lasting peace". We agreed, in short, after this searching re-appraisal that we should follow our present line in German policy, as that which was in accordance with the wishes of the majority of German people and as that which was being steadily and firmly pursued by the German government. We came to these conclusions only after receiving the considered views of the representatives of the Federal Republic of Germany.

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CORRIGENDA

Vol. 7, No. 12, December 1955, page 331, column one, three lines from bottom, for "nation" read "notion".

Ibid, page 332, column one, line 16, for "It is" read "Is it".
line 20, for "approach." read "approach?"
ten lines from bottom, for "concerned." read "conceded."

column two, twenty lines from bottom, for "Acquire" read "Acquired".

Ibid, page 333, column one, twenty lines from bottom, for "persons" read "person".