

Nor can one pass over the fact that German militarism, taking advantage of the absence of a peace treaty, is again raising itself up and gathering strength in West Germany. This cannot but disturb the Soviet people and other European nations upon whom militarist Germany has more than once inflicted grim hardships and suffering. A peace treaty, corresponding to the interests of the peaceful development of Germany, would create the conditions necessary to preclude for all time a repetition of the tragic events of the past, when the German militarists drew mankind into ruinous wars with enormous human and material losses.

Being true to the obligations taken upon itself in relation to Germany, and bearing in mind the legitimate interests of the German nation and other European nations, the Soviet Government has more than once in the post-war years come forward with proposals to the Governments of Great Britain, the U.S.A. and France to work out and conclude a peace treaty with Germany. Unfortunately the proposals of the U.S.S.R. concerning a peace settlement with Germany have not met with a favourable response from the Western powers who not only have not put forward any proposals of their own, but have not wished seriously to consider this long outstanding question. Moreover, in the course of many years, they have put forward one and the same thesis of the imaginary priority of so-called free all-German elections and that the four formerly occupying powers, not the Germans, should concern themselves with the question of the reunification of Germany. This thesis was also the main content of the Western powers' Notes of September 30th, 1958, to which an exhaustive reply was given in the Soviet Government's Notes on the Berlin question of November 27, 1958.

If one does not entertain illusions but faces the truth, then it must be recognized that the restoration of German unity must inevitably come about through a series of stages on the way towards a rapprochement of the German Democratic Republic and the German Federal Republic. Today one can only wish for the beginning of this process, the success of which, however, depends upon the efforts of both German states. To evade the preparations of a German peace treaty means to conduct the matter in such a way that the German people would have no peace treaty nor single national state. This would mean the maintenance of the present intolerable situation which creates the possibility that the F.G.R. will try to thrust upon the G.D.R. an internal system of its own type. But in such a case the G.D.R. would in its turn be entirely justified in raising the question of changing the system and regime in the F.G.R. Of course, this would not only not facilitate the achievement of national German unity, but on the contrary would increase the already wide gap between the two German states.