

Germany under international supervision, preliminary to the convocation of an all-German assembly and the formation of an all-German government; nor would it accept the proposal that the all-German government so formed should be left free to decide whether it should or should not withdraw from any EDC engagement previously undertaken by the Government of the German Federal Republic. In these circumstances, it was considered that the draft treaty for a European collective security system proposed by the Soviet Union would inadequately safeguard the security of Western Europe. On the Austrian question the Soviet Foreign Minister declined to modify his view that the State Treaty should provide for Austria's neutrality and the retention of occupation forces until a German peace treaty had been signed—conditions which the Western powers considered inconsistent with independence and more likely to increase than to diminish the possibility of another *Anschluss* with Germany.

The conference therefore failed to reach agreement on fundamental issues, although it did result in arrangements to hold a meeting at Geneva on Korea and Indochina, and to exchange views on disarmament.

Soviet policy for the rest of the year was obviously directed towards creating disunity in the West and blocking plans to associate the German Federal Republic with the Western community. A series of diplomatic notes from the Soviet Government, which began during the Nine-Power meetings, was designed to emphasize the danger to peace from the incorporation of a rearmed Germany in the Western alliance, and to enlist support for the Soviet conception of a European security system. In spite of this campaign, the all-European security conference convoked by the Soviet Union for November 29 was attended only by members of the Soviet bloc.

The Soviet Union, after the Berlin Conference, announced on March 26 the restoration of sovereign rights to the "German Democratic Republic" (East Germany), subject to Soviet rights under the Potsdam agreement of 1945. After studying the implications of this announcement, Canada and the other members of NATO stated that they had "no intention of recognizing the sovereignty of the so-called German Democratic Republic or of treating the German authorities there as a government."

After the Berlin Conference the three Western powers renewed their attempts to obtain Soviet agreement to the withdrawal from Austria of all occupation forces and the conclusion of a treaty, but without result. A proposal of the Austrian Government for the establishment of a five-power committee to consider ways of alleviating Austria's occupation burdens was rejected by the Soviet Union. At the ninth session of the United Nations General Assembly the three Western powers reported on the results of the efforts to implement the Assembly's 1952 resolution calling for agreement on the terms of an Austrian treaty, and the French Prime Minister, pointing out how close the four powers were to such agreement, suggested that the Soviet Union might agree to an evacuation of occupation forces in phases over a two-year period, after the signing of the treaty. At the year's end there was no sign that the Soviet Union was seriously interested in this proposal.

Chancellor Raab of Austria visited Canada early in December.