



STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

INFORMATION DIVISION
DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
OTTAWA - CANADA

No. 54/18 SURVEY OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Statement by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. L.B. Pearson, made in the House of Commons, March 25, 1954.

...The first matter with which I should like to deal, and I think the house will expect me to, is the result of the Berlin conference, which was being held when we had our last discussion on international affairs on January 29. It will be recalled that the agenda of the Berlin conference was adopted quickly. It was a simple agenda of three items. The second and third items of that agenda were Germany and the problem of ensuring European security, and the Austrian state treaty. In respect of these two items, as the house knows, no progress was made at Berlin.

In so far as Germany is concerned, the Soviet delegation to that conference was unable to agree to the proposal for free all-German elections as the first step towards unification and a German peace settlement; while the Western foreign ministers on their part were not able to agree to the Soviet proposal, which had been previously rejected, that a provisional all-German government should be set up on a basis of equal representation of the freely elected government of the German republic and of the Communist regime in East Germany. The result was, in this matter, deadlock.

Similarly, in respect of Austria, when the Western foreign ministers, in an effort to bring a peace treaty to Austria at last, accepted the previous Soviet proposals the Soviet delegation then introduced new and irrelevant conditions with the result that in this matter too there was deadlock. So the peoples of Germany and Austria must have felt, as indeed we felt, disappointed and disillusionment over the negative results of these items of the agenda.

The first item of the agenda concerned methods of reducing international tension and convening a five-power conference. Under that item a decision was taken, as the House knows, to hold a conference in Geneva opening on April 26 to discuss the question of a Korean peace treaty and the war in Indo-China. I will deal with these matters more specifically a little later.

On January 29, when we discussed international affairs, I told the House that in my view, despite some minor