

believing that the absence of a peaceful settlement precludes a just approach to the legitimate national interests of the German people and is largely conducive to the aggravation of tension and instability in Europe;

being unanimous in their intention to finally reckon up the war unleashed by Hitlerite Germany, the war which has brought incalculable sufferings and calamities to many peoples, including the German nation;

recognizing that during the years since the ending of hostilities the German people have proved in many ways that they condemn the crimes committed against the peoples of Europe as a result of the aggression unleashed by German militarism;

fully resolved never to allow Germany ever again to threaten its neighbours or other nations, to unleash a new war;

desirous of giving Germany an opportunity to develop along peaceful and democratic lines and of ensuring its fruitful co-operation with other states as an equal member of the community of nations;

convinced that the conclusion of a peace treaty would be of exceptionally great significance for insuring security in Europe and the consolidation of world peace;

holding that the conclusion of a peace treaty with Germany is a necessary and important step toward the restoration of the national unity of Germany;

have decided to conclude the present peace treaty and have therefore appointed the undersigned Plenipotentiaries who, after presentation of their Credentials, found in good and due form, have agreed on the following provisions:

1. The Allied and Associated Powers declare that they will base their relations with Germany on the principles of respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Germany, of non-interference in its domestic affairs, non-aggression, and of equality and mutual benefit, and in accordance with the provisions of the present treaty.

In its relations with all countries Germany shall be guided by the same principles.

2. Germany commits itself to solve its international disputes only by peaceful means so as not to endanger international peace and security. Germany also pledges to refrain from the threat of force in international relations or the use of force against the territorial integrity or political