

It would be natural to expect that the Western powers, which declare their adherence to the cause of Germany's reunification, would display a constructive approach to this proposal. Yet so far, no such approach has been displayed. The Soviet Government would also like to emphasize that it is its firm conviction that the conclusion of a peace treaty with Germany and the normalization of the situation in Berlin in the present conditions would of themselves prove to be the best means of bringing nearer the solution of the reunification problem, in accordance with the national aspirations of the Germans and with interests of peace and security of other peoples. In the opinion of the Soviet Government, a peace treaty, provided there is a genuine striving for it on the part of the countries concerned, can be concluded with both German states, since they alone can now speak for Germany which signed the act of surrender. A peace treaty should be adopted to record this existing state of affairs. One must be living under illusions if one counts on changing the social system of either of these states by means of interference from without. Is it not clear that any attempt at using violence against the G.D.R. or the F.R.G. would lead to a clash between the two opposing military groupings of which they are members and would visit upon mankind a new war with immeasurably graver consequences than those of any of the previous wars?

The conclusion of a German peace treaty would also mean the settlement of the Berlin question. The Soviet Government has more than once drawn the attention of the governments of the Western powers to the fact that the situation in Berlin is abnormal and that it represents a grave source of international tension, particularly with respect to the relations between the nations of Europe. The Soviet Government wants this question to be settled on a basis acceptable to all the parties concerned with a view to safe-guarding the peace and security of the peoples of Europe. It is for this reason that it has proposed the conversion of Western Berlin into a demilitarized free city, whose independence and all the necessary business, cultural and other contacts with the countries of the West and East would be guaranteed, with reliable international safeguards, with the participation of the great powers and also of the U.N.

This being so, how should one interpret the threats being made in the West to use tanks and aircraft for a breakthrough to Berlin, when the G.D.R., as a sovereign state, which will have signed a peace treaty, becomes the full master of the lines of communication between West Berlin and the F.R.G. If there should really be an intention of resorting to force of arms behind these threats anyone who would venture to do so would have to shoulder the heavy responsibility before mankind of starting a new war.

It is the profound conviction of the Soviet Government that it is now more necessary than ever before to take urgent effective measures to prevent a dangerous turn of events. It therefore turns again to its proposal for a meeting of statesmen at the highest level. Talks by foreign ministers now proposed by the Governments of the U.S.A., the U.K. and France would be a long road. If the heads of governments have not yet firmly decided to base relations between states on co-operation and not to allow anything that would aggravate these relations, how can other representatives of the states concerned take decisions that would ensure a radical improvement in the relations between states? The very fact of a meeting of the heads of government in the present tense situation would unquestionably help to improve the entire international climate. There is hardly a need to speak of how truly historically important would be a decision by the heads of government taking part in the meeting, that henceforth they would exert efforts towards the settlement of all international problems