

Communiqué issued by the French Foreign Affairs Ministry (12 August 1970)

Caption: On 12 August 1970, following the signing, on the same day, of the Treaty between the Federal Republic of Germany and the Soviet Union, the French Foreign Ministry publishes a communiqué relating to a note from the West German Government on the status of the four powers in Germany.

Source: La politique étrangère de la France. Textes et documents. dir. de publ. Ministère des Affaires étrangères. 2e semestre 1970. Paris: La Documentation Française. "Communiqué publié par le ministère des Affaires étrangères après la signature du traité germano-soviétique (12 août 1970)", p. 56.

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Communiqué issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs after the signing of the German-Soviet Treaty

12 August

The French Embassy presents its compliments to the Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs and has the honour, on the instructions of its Government, to forward the following communication:

The French Government has received the note sent to it by the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany on 7 August 1970, which reads as follows:

‘The Government of the Federal Republic of Germany has the honour, in connection with the imminent signing of a treaty between the Federal Republic of Germany and the USSR, to inform [the French Government] of the following:

The Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs has, during the negotiations, set out the position of the Federal Government as regards the rights and responsibilities of the four powers with regard to Germany as a whole and Berlin.

Since a settlement by a peace treaty is still outstanding, both parties deemed that the proposed treaty does not affect the rights and responsibilities of France, the United Kingdom, the USSR and the USA.

In this connection, the Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs declared on 6 August that “the question of the rights of the four powers is in no way connected with the treaty which the Federal Republic of Germany and the USSR intend to conclude and will not be affected by it.”

The Foreign Minister of the USSR thereupon made the following declaration:

‘The question of the rights of the four powers was not the subject of negotiations with the Federal Republic of Germany.

The Soviet Government proceeded from the principle that this question should not be discussed.

Nor is the question of the rights of the four powers not affected by the treaty which the USSR and the Federal Republic of Germany intend to conclude.

This is the position of the Soviet Government regarding this question.’

The French Government takes cognisance of this note, including the declarations made by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Germany and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics during the negotiations, before the initialling of the treaty to be concluded between the Federal Republic of Germany and the Soviet Union.

For its part, the French Government, too, takes the view that the rights and responsibilities of the four powers for Berlin and Germany as a whole, which derive from the outcome of the Second World War and which are reflected in the London Agreement of 14 November 1944, in the Quadripartite Declaration of 5 June 1945 and in other wartime and post-war agreements, are not and may not be affected by a bilateral treaty between the Federal Republic of Germany and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, including the present treaty.

The French Embassy avails takes this opportunity to reiterate to the Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs the assurance of its highest consideration.