

Note from the German government to the three Western Powers (7 August 1970)

Caption: On 7 August 1970, the German Government sends notes to the US, French and British Ambassadors relating to the Germano-Soviet Treaty and to the country's new Ostpolitik.

Source: Bundesgesetzblatt 1972 II. Hrsg. Der Bundesminister der Justiz. 24.05.1972, Nr. 27. Bonn: Bundesanzeiger Verlagsges. m. b. H. "Note der Bundesregierung an die drei Westmächte", p. 356.

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Note from the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany to the three Western Powers (7 August 1970)

The Government of the Federal Republic of Germany have the honour, in connexion with the imminent signing of a treaty between the Federal Republic of Germany and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, to inform them of the following:

The Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs has, in the context of the negotiations, set forth 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.

As a settlement by a peace treaty is still outstanding, both sides started from the principle that the proposed treaty does not affect the rights and responsibilities of the French Republic, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America.

The Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs has, in this connexion, declared to the Soviet Foreign Minister on the 6th of August 1970 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 Union of Soviet Socialist Republics intend to conclude, and will not be affected by it.'

The Foreign Minister for the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics 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.

The question of the rights of the Four Powers is also not affected by the treaty which the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the Federal Republic of Germany intend to conclude.

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