

Communiqué from the SPD on the Moscow Treaty (Bonn, 9 August 1955)

Caption: On 9 August 1970, in anticipation of the imminent signature, in Moscow, of the Treaty between Germany and the Soviet Union, the West German Socialist Party (SPD) expresses its satisfaction at the new links being forged between the Federal Republic of Germany and the Soviet Union.

Source: The Treaty of August 12, 1970 between the Federal Republic of Germany and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. Bonn: Press and Information Office of the Federal Government, 1970. 204 p. p. 168-171.

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Communiqué on the Session of the Presidium of the Social Democratic Party of Germany August 9, 1970

After the briefing on the result of the Moscow negotiations between the two Foreign Ministers, the SPD Presidium passed the following resolution:

The SPD presidium is pleased to be able to endorse the agreement reached by the Foreign Ministers of the Federal Republic of Germany and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on the treaty between the two states. The Presidium conveys its thanks to the Federal Foreign Minister, Walter Scheel. In addition, it would also like to thank all other participants, among them the representatives of the Parliamentary Parties of the FDP and SPD, Dr. Ernst Achenbach and Karl Wienand, and State-Secretaries Egon Bahr and Paul Frank.

In the national interest and in the interest of peace in Europe, we expect that the set of agreements will be signed, and later that their ratification will receive a large majority in the Bundestag, as soon as the Four Powers have arrived at a satisfactory solution of the Berlin problem.

The treaty brings foreign policy nearer its goal of reconciliation with our Eastern neighbors. The SPD has pursued this goal for many years in opposition, during the Grand Coalition, and since taking over political leadership in the Federal Government. The Brandt-Scheel Government has kept its promise: the Federal Republic of Germany is making a contribution to the creation of peace in Europe which corresponds to its importance.

The following details are to be stated:

1. The treaty opens the way to an improvement in relations between the Federal Republic of Germany and the Soviet Union. Almost thirty years after the assault on the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, twenty-five after the unconditional surrender of Germany, and fifteen years reconciliation with the West, the formalization of relations with the Soviet Union initiated under Federal Chancellor Adenauer has now been developed further into a normalization under Federal Chancellor Brandt, and a phase of mutual cooperation introduced.
2. The Moscow agreements bring added security to the citizens of our country. The renunciation by both sides of the use or threat of force implies that the Soviet Government renounces every claim to intervention against the Federal Republic of Germany; this includes the renunciation of intervention claims based on Articles 53 and 107 of the United Nations Charter. On this question, the Federal Republic of Germany now receives through the treaty the same rights vis-à-vis the Soviet Union as it has already received vis-à-vis the Three Western Powers.
3. The Moscow agreements give reason to hope that economic, scientific, technological and cultural cooperation between the Federal Republic of Germany and the Soviet Union can be strengthened in the interests of both peoples. The treaty should also provide a constructive initiative in these fields between the two states which can have a positive effect for other states in Eastern and Western Europe.
4. The treaty between the Federal Republic of Germany and the Soviet Union specifically stresses the validity of treaties concluded between the Federal Republic and our Western allies; this includes the Treaty on Germany (the "Bonn Conventions"), our membership of the NATO Alliance, and the agreements with the European Community. Only on this basis, and with the support of our Western Allies, was it possible to reach agreement with the Soviet Union.
5. The rights and responsibilities of the Four Powers for Germany as a whole and for Berlin are not affected by the treaty. The treaty neither anticipates nor substitutes a peace treaty.
6. The national goal of German unity through self-determination remains beyond doubt; this is recognized by the Soviet Union.

There is also nothing obstructing a European unification.

7. The agreed inviolability of existing frontiers does not curtail the sovereign right of every state to cede or change frontiers by peaceful agreement.

8. The treaty will aid Four-Power negotiations on improving the Berlin situation.

The Soviet Union recognizes that the treaty cannot come into force without an improvement in the Berlin situation.

The treaty between the Federal Republic of Germany and the Soviet Union heralds a new phase in our foreign policy, whose firm foundation will continue to be our treaties with our Western Allies. At the same time, many people in the East and the West attach great hopes to this treaty.

The result of the Moscow negotiations offers a new starting-point to the climate of internal affairs in the Federal Republic of Germany; in the long term, it may lead to objectivity and mutual readiness to reach agreement in foreign affairs between those who are opponents in home affairs.