

Statement by the Soviet Military Administration (10 October 1949)

Caption: On 10 October 1949, the Soviet Military Administration in Germany legitimises the establishment of the German Democratic Republic (GDR) and denounces the establishment of the Federal Republic of Germany (FRG).

Source: United States-Department of State. Documents on Germany 1944-1985. Washington: Department of State, [s.d.]. 1421 p. (Department of State Publication 9446). p. 306-308.

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Statement by the Chief of the Soviet Military Administration in Germany on the Establishment of a Provisional Government of the German Democratic Republic, October 10, 1949

The Soviet Government has instructed me to make the following statement in connection with the decisions adopted on October 7, 1949, by the German People's Council on putting into operation the Constitution of the German Democratic Republic and on the establishment in Berlin of a Provisional Government of the German Democratic Republic.

On October 1 the Soviet Government sent to the Governments of the United States, Great Britain and France a Note stating the position of the Soviet Union in relation to the situation which has now arisen in Germany in connection with the formation on September 20 of this year of a separate government in the city of Bonn (western part of Germany). At the same time the Soviet Government declared that the formation of the Bonn separate government is a gross violation of the Potsdam decisions, according to which the Governments of the U.S.S.R., the United States, Great Britain and France assumed the obligation to consider Germany as one whole and to contribute towards its transformation into a democratic and peace-loving State, and also the obligation to conclude a peace treaty with Germany.

In compliance with the Potsdam and other joint decisions of the Four Powers, the Soviet Government has invariably endeavoured to prevent the splitting of Germany, directing its efforts towards the fulfilment of these decisions, towards the accomplishment of the democratization and the demilitarization of Germany and towards ensuring the fulfilment by Germany of the obligations placed upon her by the Potsdam Agreement of the Four Powers.

It should be clear to all that the accomplishment of the democratization and demilitarization of Germany, based on the active participation of all democratic forces of the German people, is essential in order to prevent the restoration of Germany as an aggressive State, which meets the interests of all peace-loving peoples of Europe and which corresponds to the interests of the German people itself. It is obvious that a situation in which even a part of Germany should fall into the hands of yesterday's inspirers of the Hitler regime is incompatible with the tasks of democratizing and demilitarizing Germany. It is universally evident that these people make no secret of their hostile attitude to neighbouring countries and to democratic Germany itself, and that they are imbued with open revanchist yearnings, being today, in the western part of Germany, the direct instrument of aggressive foreign circles.

The Soviet Government is confident that the German people will find ways for the restoration of the unity of Germany, which is at present violated, and will achieve the unity of the German State on a democratic and peaceful basis. The partition of Germany cannot continue for long, inasmuch as this situation is in contradiction to the deepest aspirations of the German people.

A whole series of obstacles are placed in the way to the restoration of Germany's unity. For instance, who does not understand that the puppet "government" set up in Bonn cannot help to restore a united, democratic and peace-loving Germany? On the contrary, the formation of the Bonn government is intended only to deepen the split of Germany.

Under such conditions one cannot help but recognize as legitimate the striving of German democratic circles to take into their own hands the restoration of the unity of Germany and bring about the renaissance of the country on democratic and peace-loving principles. Precisely in this respect does the Soviet Government see the essence of the decisions of the German People's Council on putting into operation the Constitution of the German Democratic Republic and on the formation, in Berlin, of a Provisional Government of the German Democratic Republic.

Moreover, the Soviet Government takes note of the fact that the Provisional Government will abide by the decisions of the Potsdam Conference and will fulfil the obligations arising out of decisions jointly adopted by the Four Powers.

In connection with the above-mentioned decisions of the German People's Council, the Soviet Government has decided to transfer to the Provisional Government of the German Democratic Republic the functions of administration which hitherto belonged to the Soviet Military Administration.

In the place of the Soviet Military Administration in Germany, a Soviet Control Commission will be established charged with exercising control over the fulfilment of the Potsdam and other joint decisions of the Four Powers in respect to Germany.