

Draft general European Treaty on collective security in Europe — Molotov proposal (Berlin, 10 February 1954)

Caption: At the Conference of Foreign Ministers of the Four Powers (USSR, USA, France and the United Kingdom), held in Berlin from 25 January to 18 February 1954, the Soviet Minister, Vyacheslav Molotov, submits a draft general Treaty on collective security in Europe and proposes that a conference of European States be convened with a view to its conclusion.

Source: New York Herald Tribune. 11.02.1954. [s.l.].

The proposed European security conference 1954-1971. Brief prepared by Mr. E. Nessler, Rapporteur. Paris: Western European Union Assembly, December 1971. 99 p. (General Affairs Committee. Seventeenth Ordinary Session). "1. Draft general European treaty on collective security in Europe submitted by Mr. Molotov to the Berlin Conference, 10th February 1954", p. 8-9.

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Draft general European treaty on collective security in Europe submitted by Mr. Molotov, Soviet Minister for Foreign Affairs, to the Berlin Conference (10th February 1954)

Safeguarding security in Europe.....

With a view to safeguarding peace and security and preventing aggression against any State in Europe,

With a view to strengthening international co-operation in conformity with the principles of respect for the independence and sovereignty of States, and of non-interference in their internal affairs,

Seeking to prevent the formation of groups of European States directed against other European States which gives rise to friction and strained relations among nations and to achieve concerted action by all European States in safeguarding collective security in Europe,

The States of Europe, being guided by the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter, shall conclude a general European treaty on collective security in Europe, containing the following basic provisions:

1. The treaty shall be open to all European States without regard as to their social systems, which recognise the purposes and assume the obligations arising out of the treaty.

Pending the establishment of a united, pacific, democratic German State, the (East) German Democratic Republic and the (West) German Federal Republic can be parties to the treaty enjoying equal rights. It is understood that after the unification of Germany, the united German State can become a party to the treaty on the general terms.

The conclusion of the treaty on collective security in Europe shall not impair the jurisdiction of the four powers — the USSR, the United States, the United Kingdom and France — in regard to the German problem which is to be settled in the manner previously determined by the four powers.

2. The parties to the treaty undertake to refrain from any attack against one another and also to refrain from having recourse to the threat or the use of force in their international relations and, in accordance with the United Nations Charter, to settle by peaceful means and in such a way as not to endanger international peace and security in Europe any dispute that may arise among themselves.

3. The parties to the treaty shall consult among themselves whenever, in the view of any one of them, there shall arise the danger of an armed attack in Europe against any one or more of the parties to the treaty, in order to take effective steps to remove the danger and to maintain security in Europe.

4. An armed attack in Europe against any one or more of the parties to the treaty by any State or group of States shall be considered an attack against all the parties. In case of such attack, each one of the parties, in the exercise of the right of individual or collective self defence, shall assist the State or States which had been so attacked by all the means at its disposal, including the use of armed force, for the purpose of re-establishing and maintaining international peace and security in Europe.

5. The parties undertake jointly to discuss and determine at an early date the procedure under which assistance, including military assistance, shall be rendered by the parties to the treaty in case there should arise in Europe a situation requiring a collective effort for the re-establishment and maintenance of peace in Europe.

6. The parties shall immediately send to the Security Council of the United Nations, in conformity with the provisions of the United Nations Charter, information concerning the activities undertaken or in contemplation in the exercise of the right of self defence or for the purpose of maintaining peace and security in Europe.

7. The parties undertake not to enter any coalition or alliance or conclude any agreement the purposes of which would contradict the purposes of the treaty on collective security in Europe.

8. For the purpose of holding the consultations among the parties provided for by the treaty and of considering the matters arising out of the problem of safeguarding security in Europe, the following shall be provided for:

(a) The holding of a periodical and, whenever required, special conference at which each of the States shall be represented by a member of the government or by some other specially designated representative.

(b) The establishment of a permanent consultative political committee whose task shall be the drafting of appropriate recommendations for the governments of the parties.

(c) The establishment of a military consultative body whose terms of reference shall be determined in due course.

9. Recognising the special responsibility of the permanent members of the United Nations Security Council for the maintenance of international peace and security, the parties shall invite the governments of the United States and the Chinese People's Republic to send their representatives to the bodies set up under the treaty, as observers.

10. The present treaty shall not impair in any way the obligations contained in the international treaties and agreements among the European States, the principles and purposes of which are in conformity with the principles and purposes of the present treaty.

11. The duration of the treaty shall be 50 years.

Safeguarding security in Europe

1. The governments of France, the United Kingdom, the United States and the USSR undertake to continue their efforts to reach an adequate settlement of the German problem in accordance with the principle of maintaining peace and national freedom, and also to observe the rights of all other European States interested in preventing any State from violating their national interests and security.

2. Pending the conclusion of a peace treaty with Germany and the reunification of Germany along democratic and peaceful lines, the following measures shall be carried out;

(a) The occupation forces shall be withdrawn simultaneously from the territory of both Eastern and Western Germany within a period of six months with the exception of limited contingents left to perform protective functions arising out of the control tasks of the four powers, the USSR in regard to Eastern Germany and the United States, the United Kingdom and France in regard to Western Germany.

The strength of such contingents shall be agreed upon by the governments of the four powers.

(b) The powers which at present are exercising occupational functions in Germany shall have the right to move in their forces in case the security of either part of Germany is threatened: the USSR in regard to Eastern Germany, the United States, the United Kingdom and France in regard to Western Germany.

(c) For the purpose of maintaining internal order and defence of frontiers the German Democratic Republic and the German Federal Republic shall have police units, the strength and armaments of which shall be determined by agreement among the four powers.

Inspection groups comprising representatives of the four powers shall be formed in Eastern and Western Germany to supervise the implementation of this agreement.

3. In accordance with the above provisions, the implementation of which shall assure the neutralisation of Germany and the creation of conditions favourable to the settlement of the German problem in the interests of consolidating peace in Europe, the four powers shall take urgent steps to facilitate the conclusion of a treaty on collective security among the European States which shall provide for appropriate guarantees against aggression and the violation of peace in Europe. To this end the four powers have agreed to take the initiative of convening an appropriate conference of European States.