Cabinet conclusions on Soviet attitudes toward Germany, 2 May 1949

SECRET

C.M. (49) 31st Conclusions

2 May 1949

*The Foreign Secretary* said that, as the result of the discussions which had been proceeding between the Soviet and United States representatives on the Security Council, it seemed possible that the Soviet Government would now be willing to raise the blockade of Berlin if the Western Powers accepted their proposal for an early meeting of the Council of Foreign Ministers to discuss future policy in respect of Germany as a whole. The Foreign Secretary had thought it expedient that this Soviet approach should be handled with caution, for he thought it essential that nothing should be done which might prejudice the early establishment of a Government of Western Germany. He was, however, satisfied from special enquiries which he had made, that the political leaders in Western Germany were determined to go forward with the establishment of that Government and were not now likely to interpret the holding of a further meeting of the Council of Foreign Ministers as a sign of weakening on the part of the Western Powers.

The Foreign Secretary added that, although this approach indicated that the Soviet Government might for the present be more disposed to seek some accommodation with the Western Powers, there could be no assurance that this attitude of mind would be maintained for any length of time. Another sudden reversal of policy might take place at any moment. This was a further reason for caution[[1]](#footnote-1).

The Cabinet took note of the Foreign Secretary’s statement.

[TNA, CAB 128/15]

Keywords: Inter-allied relations, Post-war Germany

1. See also the minutes of a meeting of the Russia Committee on 12 April 1949 where these issues were discussed (in FO 371/77623). [↑](#footnote-ref-1)