Documents submitted to V.M. Molotov

31.1. (1952) [[1]](#footnote-1) For information.

Short Summary

Zorin[[2]](#footnote-2) Presents the note “Disagreements in imperialist camp regarding West Germany’s role in the aggressive bloc”. The note says that the US government has consistently pursued a policy of rapid recovery and development of West German military and industrial potential, and the accelerated development of powerful West German armed forces. Americans believe that loans and direct investment in the West German economy would tie it securely to the US economy, and that in these circumstances, West German rearmament would not be able to serve any other policy than NATO. The ruling circles in Britain and France, seeking to use West Germany against the Soviet Union, at the same time fear the further weakening of their international position as a result of the restoration of the military and economic power of German imperialism. The Bonn government, with the backing of the big bourgeoisie, is seeking the most favorable conditions for the inclusion of West Germany in the anti-Soviet bloc in order to create preconditions for transforming West Germany into the most powerful imperialist power in Western Europe. In this respect, they are supported by the USA. Disagreements in the imperialist camp on the German question have led to protracted negotiations on ways to integrate West Germany into an anti-Soviet bloc. So far, the question of using West German military industry for aggressive purposes has been resolved. This was reflected in the agreement on the establishment of a coal and metallurgical community[[3]](#footnote-3). The negotiations on the establishment of West Germany’s armed forces have entered the final stages. It is planned to create 12 tank and motorized divisions and powerful military aviation under the pretext of German contingents for a “European army”[[4]](#footnote-4). Negotiations on the “political settlement” for West Germany so far have led to the coordination of a draft “general agreement” providing for the formal abolition of the occupation statute, but securing a politically unequal status for West Germany within the bloc of the Western powers.

Sent to Comrade Stalin and the other members of the Group of Eight[[5]](#footnote-5) as well as to Comrades Vyshinsky and Gromyko.

[RSASPH f. 82, inv. 2, file 1042, p. 31]

Keywords: Germany

1. In the summary report for this date the information from Zorin has been placed under the sequential number 2. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Zorin, Valerian Aleksandrovich (1902-1986) – Chief of the Information Committee at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the USSR (1949-1952), Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the USSR (1947-1955 and 1956-1965). [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Evidently, the reference is to the Treaty Establishing the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC), which was discussed from 1950 and signed by France, FDR, Italy, Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxemburg on 18 April 1951. See: Lipkin М.А. Sovetskii Soiuz i evropeiskaia integratsiia: seredina 1940-kh – seredina 1960-kh godov. М., 2011. S. 108-110. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Soviet diplomats actively began to write about ‘military preparations’ in FDR as early as summer 1950, at the start of the Korean war. The formula ‘remilitarisation of West Germany’ is encountered more than once in Soviet documents, however this was an imagined problem in as far as Soviet experts passed off police and auxiliary services as embryonic armed forces. See: Filitov А.М. USSR i germanskii vopros: povorotnye punkty (1941-1961 gg.) // Kholodnaia voina. 1945—1963 gg. Istoricheskaia retrospektiva. М., 2003. pp. 238-240. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. “The Eight” – the configuration of the ‘restricted leadership’ of the USSR, being composed of those high-ranking members of the Politburo especially close to I.V. Stalin, who took the key decisions shaping the country’s development. Its composition varied from “The Five” to “The Nine”; in 1950, “The Eight” included: Stalin, Molotov, Beria, Mikoyan, Malenkov, Bulganin, Kaganovich and Khrushchev. See: Khlevniuk О.V. Stalin. Zhizn odnogo vozhdia: biografiia. М., 2015. pp. 20-22. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)