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USDEL/Working Paper/35  
June 8, 1949  
For Action

UNITED STATES DELEGATION  
COUNCIL OF FOREIGN MINISTERS  
SIXTH SESSION

Limitation of Occupational Forces --  
Draft Statement by the U.S. Member

Attached for the consideration of Delegation Staff members is a paper prepared by Mr. Beam. It is in the form of a statement by the U.S. Member which could be made as a rebuttal to a possible Soviet proposal for the withdrawal of occupation forces. This paper will be considered at the Staff meeting on June 9.

Brad Patterson

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The Soviet proposal that we withdraw our occupation forces within \_\_\_\_\_ (that we commit ourselves now to the withdrawal of occupation forces within a year after the conclusion of a peace treaty) glosses over many of the problems we have not yet been able to solve and it would not be in the general European interest to agree to it at this time.

It has always been our aim that a peace settlement be concluded with a democratic German government and that such a settlement would look forward to the early withdrawal of occupation troops from Germany. We should like to see work begun on a German peace treaty as soon as we have been able to agree on the conditions precedent for the establishment of a government for all of Germany with which such a treaty could be concluded. At present we have found no solution, either to the problem of German unity or to the requirements for a German peace settlement, the issues being in many respects essentially the same.

Until a treaty can be concluded with a democratic government for all of Germany capable of carrying out its terms, the question of European security with respect to Germany cannot be regarded as solved. I would remind my colleagues that we have certain obligations before the world to carry out with respect to German disarmament and demilitarization and that our continued presence in Germany is necessary to fulfill them pending a satisfactory German settlement.

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It is quite just, however, that an endeavor should be made to relieve Germany in so far as practicable of the burdens of occupation. The United States Government has been mindful of this question for some time. At the New York session of the Council of Foreign Ministers, the United States called for a reconsideration of troop strengths in Europe as a step towards restoring conditions of peace. Our proposal was discussed in relation to Germany at the Moscow session and the Allied Control Council was given the task of considering the matter further and of reporting back to the CFM by June 1, 1947 its decision with respect to the strength of occupation forces which should prevail in Germany as of September 1, 1947. The discussions in Berlin failed for the reason that the Soviet Commander insisted on what seemed to us to be an unreasonable preponderance of Soviet forces over the forces of the other Allied countries in Germany.

I should like to ask Mr. Vishinsky whether his proposal is motivated by the wish which we hold that the occupation burdens of Germany should be reduced to reasonable proportions. If this is the case, the Soviet Government has it in its power to contribute to the welfare of the population in its zone.

Occupation forces are at present being kept in Germany for the task of maintaining internal and external security and we assume that the Soviet troops in the eastern zone are there for this purpose and no other reason. The three western powers find that some 270,000 troops suffice for an area covering 94,000 square miles with a population of some 45,000,000 Germans.

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At present the Soviet Union seems to find it necessary to maintain some 340,000 troops to deal with one-half as many Germans in an area of 41,000 square miles. We would be interested in knowing why, on this basis, the Soviet Union appears to require one soldier for each 50 Germans, whereas the western powers are able to maintain order with 1 soldier for each 160 Germans. Presumably, we all agree that occupation forces should not be larger than needed for the purposes of security within Germany and I would like to ask whether the Soviet Government would agree to reduce its troops to a proportion which would more nearly equal those of the western powers in terms of the problems we face.

By approaching the problem along these lines, we should be able to arrive at an interim constructive result pending a final settlement for all of Germany when the necessary conditions permit this to be achieved.

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