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Aan Zijne Excellentie Prof. Dr. J.E. de QUAY
Minister-President

Plein 1813 no. 4

's-GRAVENHAGE.



U.S.S.R.

"DAILY WORKER"'S MOSCOW CORRESPONDENT'S VIEWS ON FUTURE
SOVIET TACTICS IN NEGOTIATIONS ON
GERMANY

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A Western Communist journalist, with long experience of Moscow and with known contacts in Soviet party and political circles, has given his comments to a Western colleague, with whom he has always been on good terms. He gave the impression that the comments were not purely personal opinion, but were based on Soviet sources, which, however, cannot be defined.

- a) There is no possibility that the Russians will agree to reaffirm Western rights of occupation in Berlin; but they might be prepared to agree tacitly or in effect to the continued presence of Western troops, with no time limit formally set for their departure, provided that the Western Powers recognised the temporary nature of their presence there. The one year time limit proposed by GROMYKO is not at all important; what the Russians want is recognition from the West that their present occupation status in Berlin cannot go on indefinitely.
- b) The points made by GROMYKO concerning propaganda and espionage are not considered to be important by the Russians. They set some store by a reduction in the size of the Western forces in Berlin, but the really important point is the insistence on Western agreement never to instal nuclear weapons or rockets. Ever since November last year this had been an important factor in the Russian thinking about Berlin, and the journalist had discussed it with a number of Russians since then. Discussions with the West on this point would lead directly to discussions on the RAPACKI plan, in which the

Czechs and Poles would obviously have to take part.

- c) The Russians would agree to a ban on such weapons in East Berlin, and they would hope that, with the ban applying to the whole Berlin area, it could be extended to the whole of Germany.
- d) An adjournment of the Conference will not be acceptable to the Russians, who consider that it would be a cover-up for breaking off the talks. GROMYKO has had the same instructions since the beginning of the Conference, when he was told in effect by KHRUSHCHEV to find the largest block of ice he could and sit on it with a smile.

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