

**No. 4150**

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**UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS  
and  
GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC**

**Agreement on questions relating to the temporary presence of Soviet forces in the territory of the German Democratic Republic. Signed at Berlin, on 12 March 1957**

*Official texts : Russian and German.*

*Registered by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on 8 January 1958.*

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**UNION DES RÉPUBLIQUES SOCIALISTES  
SOVIÉTIQUES  
et  
RÉPUBLIQUE DÉMOCRATIQUE ALLEMANDE**

**Accord relatif à certaines questions concernant le stationnement temporaire de troupes soviétiques sur le territoire de la République démocratique allemande. Signé à Berlin, le 12 mars 1957**

*Textes officiels russe et allemand.*

*Enregistré par l'Union des Républiques socialistes soviétiques le 8 janvier 1958.*

[TRANSLATION — TRADUCTION]

No. 4150. AGREEMENT<sup>1</sup> BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC ON QUESTIONS RELATING TO THE TEMPORARY PRESENCE OF SOVIET FORCES IN THE TERRITORY OF THE GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC. SIGNED AT BERLIN, ON 12 MARCH 1957

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The Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the Government of the German Democratic Republic,

Noting that, despite the efforts of the Soviet Union, the German Democratic Republic and other peace-loving States, a settlement by peace treaty with Germany and agreed decisions which would give European States adequate guarantees of peace and security have not yet been reached,

Taking into account the fact that foreign forces have been stationed and military bases of the States Parties to the aggressive North Atlantic bloc have been established in the territory of the Federal Republic of Germany,

Considering that the revival of German militarism in West Germany constitutes a threat to peace,

Having agreed that the temporary presence of Soviet forces in the territory of the German Democratic Republic in accordance with international treaties and agreements is necessary and serves the interests of safeguarding the peace and security of the Soviet and German people and of the other peoples of Europe,

And have resolved, in accordance with the Treaty of 20 September 1955<sup>2</sup> concerning relations between the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the German Democratic Republic and the Joint Statement signed at Moscow on 7 January 1957, to conclude this Agreement and have appointed as their plenipotentiaries for this purpose :

The Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics :

A. A. Gromyko, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics ;

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<sup>1</sup> Came into force on 27 April 1957, as from the date of the exchange of notes confirming the Agreement in accordance with the laws of the Contracting Parties, in accordance with article 21.

<sup>2</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, Vol. 226, p. 201.

G. K. Zhukov, Minister of Defence of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics ;

The Government of the German Democratic Republic :

Dr. Lothar Bolz, Deputy President of the Council of Ministers and Minister of Foreign Affairs ;

Willi Stoph, Deputy President of the Council of Ministers and Minister of National Defence ;

who, having exchanged their full powers, found in good and due form, have agreed as follows :

#### *Article 1*

The temporary presence of Soviet forces in the territory of the German Democratic Republic shall not impair its sovereignty ; the Soviet forces shall not intervene in the domestic affairs or the social and political life of the German Democratic Republic.

#### *Article 2*

1. The Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the Government of the German Democratic Republic shall consult each other on questions relating to changes in the strength and duty stations of Soviet forces temporarily stationed in the territory of the German Democratic Republic.

2. The areas in which Soviet forces engage in manœuvres outside their duty stations shall be agreed upon with the competent authorities of the German Democratic Republic.

#### *Article 3*

Soviet forces stationed in the territory of the German Democratic Republic, individuals serving with those forces and members of their families shall be under a duty to respect and comply with the law in force in the German Democratic Republic.

#### *Article 4*

1. Individuals serving with the Soviet forces stationed in the territory of the German Democratic Republic shall wear the appropriate uniform and shall possess and carry arms in accordance with the rules laid down by the Soviet Army.

2. The service vehicles of Soviet military units shall bear clearly visible distinguishing marks. Such distinguishing marks shall be determined by the

command of the Soviet forces and facsimiles thereof shall be transmitted to the competent German authorities.

3. The German authorities shall recognize as valid, without a test or fee, driving licences issued by the competent Soviet authorities to individuals serving with the Soviet forces stationed in the territory of the German Democratic Republic.

4. The Soviet military authorities shall ensure, by inspection, that service vehicles licensed by them are roadworthy.

5. The service vehicles of the Soviet forces shall comply with the traffic regulations in force in the German Democratic Republic.

#### *Article 5*

Any individual serving with the Soviet forces or any member of the family of such individual who commits an offence in the territory of the German Democratic Republic shall, as a general rule, be subject to German law administered by the authorities of the German Democratic Republic.

#### *Article 6*

The provisions of article 5 of this Agreement shall not apply :

(a) In cases where an individual serving with the Soviet forces or a member of the family of such individual commits an offence against the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics or against an individual serving with the Soviet forces or a member of the family of such individual ;

(b) In cases where an individual serving with the Soviet forces commits an offence in the performance of his official duties.

The cases referred to in sub-paragraphs (a) and (b) shall be subject to Soviet law administered by the authorities of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

#### *Article 7*

The competent Soviet and German authorities may request one another to transfer or accept jurisdiction in specific cases covered by articles 5 and 6. Such requests shall receive sympathetic consideration.

#### *Article 8*

Any person convicted of an offence against the Soviet forces stationed in the territory of the German Democratic Republic or against an individual serving with those forces shall be liable before the judicial and other competent authorities of the German Democratic Republic to the same penalty as if the offence

had been committed against the armed forces of the German Democratic Republic or an individual serving with those forces.

#### *Article 9*

1. The competent Soviet and German authorities shall render each other every assistance, including legal assistance, in matters relating to the prosecution of persons who have committed the offences referred to in articles 5, 6 and 8 of this Agreement.

2. The principles and procedure governing the provision of the assistance referred to in paragraph 1 of this article and of assistance in civil proceedings arising out of the presence of Soviet forces in the territory of the German Democratic Republic shall be determined by agreement between the competent authorities of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the German Democratic Republic.

#### *Article 10*

At the request of the competent State authorities of the German Democratic Republic any individual serving with the Soviet forces who is convicted of an offence under German law shall be withdrawn from the territory of the German Democratic Republic.

#### *Article 11*

The Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics agrees to compensate the Government of the German Democratic Republic for any material damage which may be caused to institutions and citizens of the German Democratic Republic or to citizens of any third State in the territory of the German Democratic Republic by any act or omission done by Soviet military units, by individuals serving therewith or by members of the families of such individuals. If the parties concerned are unable to agree on the amount of compensation, this shall be determined :

(a) By representatives of a Mixed Commission on the basis of the claims filed and in conformity with the provisions of German law, if the damage was caused by any act or omission done by Soviet military units or by individuals serving therewith in the performance of their official duties ;

(b) By the courts of the German Democratic Republic on the basis of the claims filed and of the provisions of German law, if the damage was caused by any act or omission done by individuals serving with the Soviet forces otherwise than in the performance of their official duties or by any act or omission done by members of the families of such individuals.

*Article 12*

The Government of the German Democratic Republic agrees to compensate the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics for any material damage which may be caused to the Soviet forces stationed in the territory of the German Democratic Republic, to individuals serving with those forces and to members of the families of such individuals by any act or omission done by institutions or citizens of the German Democratic Republic. If the parties concerned are unable to agree on the amount of compensation, this shall be determined in accordance with the procedure prescribed in article 11 of this Agreement.

*Article 13*

The Contracting Parties shall pay compensation for the damage referred to in articles 11 and 12 within three months from the date of the relevant decision of the Mixed Commission or from the date of an enforceable judgement by the competent court of the German Democratic Republic.

*Article 14*

The provisions of articles 11, 12 and 13 shall likewise apply to any claims for compensation which have arisen since the entry into force of the Treaty of 20 September 1955 concerning relations between the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the German Democratic Republic and which have not been settled before the entry into force of this Agreement.

*Article 15*

The Government of the German Democratic Republic shall continue to grant the Soviet forces the right to use such barracks, airfields, training grounds, parade grounds with equipment and installations, living quarters and other buildings and structures, plots of land, railway sidings, transport services, postal, telegraphic, telephonic and radio communications, electric power, communal services, commercial facilities, building facilities and other material and industrial facilities as are in use by the Soviet forces at the time of signature of this Agreement. The procedure and conditions for the use by Soviet forces of the said installations and equipment and of services and facilities of all kinds shall be determined by special agreements between the competent authorities of the Contracting Parties.

*Article 16*

The construction of buildings, airfields, roads, bridges and permanent radio, telegraphic and telephonic communications installations required by the Soviet forces shall be subject to the consent of the competent State authorities of the German Democratic Republic.

*Article 17*

1. Any of the installations and equipment referred to in article 15 of this Agreement which are no longer required for use by the Soviet forces shall be transferred to the German Democratic Republic free of any compensation for the expenditure incurred by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics in the erection, renovation or reconstruction of such installations and equipment.

2. Such questions as may arise in connexion with the transfer of the installations and equipment referred to in article 16 of this Agreement shall be settled by special agreements.

*Article 18*

In the event of a threat to the security of the Soviet forces stationed in the territory of the German Democratic Republic, the High Command of the Soviet Forces in the German Democratic Republic may, in appropriate consultation with the Government of the German Democratic Republic and having regard to the situation and to the measures adopted by the authorities of the German Democratic Republic, take steps to remove such threat.

*Article 19*

In order to settle questions relating to the application of this Agreement there shall be established a Mixed Soviet-German Commission to which each Contracting Party shall appoint three representatives ; its decisions shall be governed by the principle of unanimity of the Parties.

The Mixed Commission shall adopt its own rules of procedure.

The headquarters of the Mixed Commission shall be Berlin.

If the Mixed Commission is unable to settle a question referred to it, the said question shall be settled through the diplomatic channel as soon as possible.

*Article 20*

1. The expression "individuals serving with the Soviet forces" shall mean :

- (a) Persons in military service in the Soviet Army ;
- (b) Civilian Soviet citizens in the employ of units of the Soviet forces in the German Democratic Republic.

2. The expression "members of the families of individuals serving with the Soviet forces" shall mean :

- (a) Spouses,
- (b) Unmarried children,
- (c) Close relatives dependent upon the said individuals,

provided that such spouses, children and relatives are citizens of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

3. The expression "duty station" shall mean an area placed at the disposal of Soviet forces, including places where military units are quartered, together with training grounds, rifle ranges, parade grounds and other installations used by such units.

*Article 21*

This Agreement shall be approved in accordance with legislative provisions of the Contracting Parties. It shall enter into force on the date of the exchange of notes indicating such approval.

*Article 22*

This Agreement shall, in accordance with the Treaty of 20 September 1955 concerning relations between the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the German Democratic Republic, remain in force for so long as Soviet forces remain in the territory of the German Democratic Republic and may be amended by agreement between the Contracting Parties.

DONE at Berlin on 12 March 1957 in two copies, each in the Russian and German languages, both texts being equally authentic.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the aforementioned plenipotentiaries have signed this Agreement and affixed thereto their seals.

For the Government  
of the Union of Soviet  
Socialist Republics :

A. GROMYKO  
G. ZHUKOV

For the Government  
of the German Democratic  
Republic :

Dr. Lothar BOLZ  
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