USSR: An authoritative Pravda article on 2 June reiterated current Soviet views on Berlin and emphasized that the attitude toward a German peace settlement is the "touchstone of sincerity and peacefulness for any politician, any state." This apparently was in response to the announcement that the President and General de Gaulle had agreed on action to maintain Western rights in Berlin. Pravda also warned that the Soviet Union has no intention of tolerating the existing situation or of being intimidated by press accounts of Western military plans for "saving" West Berlin. A number of bloc officials have adopted the line that Khrushchev will be seeking a definite commitment for new negotiations, and if this fails the USSR will be "obliged" to sign a separate peace treaty. East German party chief Ulbricht in a 1 June public interview claimed he could state "unambiguously" that a peace treaty would be concluded in the "foreseeable future." While Khrushchev would not take the initiative he would agree to a foreign ministers' conference if the US proposed it. Khrushchev was considering making a "very favorable" proposal to bring about agreement on a nuclear test ban.

East Germany - USSR: The unprecedented scope of the Soviet - East German economic protocol, signed on 30 May, is

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