

Brandt Willing to Sign A Ban on All A-Blasts

2/11/67

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NEW YORK, Feb. 10—German Foreign Minister Willy Brandt said today he would be willing to sign a treaty banning all forms of nuclear explosions on West German territory—even those for peaceful purposes.

His reply to a question at a news conference here appeared to differ slightly from his emphasis in Washington, where he stressed Germany's interest in nuclear technology for peaceful use while disclaiming any wish to acquire nuclear weapons.

He made it plain here that Germany is not concerned with peaceful explosions, but does seek to insure that controls for military purposes under a nonproliferation treaty not be used "to weaken the position and competition of industrial states who will not and do not want to be nuclear weapon states."

"We are a small country and we don't need explosions on our soil," Brandt said. "The question of explosions is not my concern," he said, adding that Germany is interested "in research, industrial development."

In a speech prepared for delivery in Chicago tonight he seemed to endorse a nonproliferation treaty, asserting that "we shall be among the first to say yes to this development."

Here, however, he was more guarded, welcoming any

reasonable step toward arms control but expressing a wish to make the links between a nonproliferation treaty and general disarmament even stronger.

"Every government," he

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said "will have to make a final decision on the nonproliferation treaty when it knows what the draft is."

Ironically, almost as he was speaking a Bonn newspaper published what purported to be virtually the complete text of the treaty draft.

Reduction of American troop strength in West Germany can be considered, Brandt said in his Chicago speech, "if the East-West situation allows it." But, he warned, "I am afraid that the time for any significant relief for the United States has not come."

At his news conference he amplified this by relating the question to German-British-American strategic discussions and also to the reported planned withdrawal of three to five Soviet divisions from Eastern Europe. Depending on how these factors fit, he said, "the answer may not be exactly those given before."

Brandt said he was satisfied with the talks in Washington, but Germany does not have the budgetary means to continue present arrangements to offset costs of American troops after June 30. "We cannot buy more weapons than we need."

Brandt said new German nationalism and the recent emergence of a right-wing party, while not to be underestimated, are not a threat and can be dealt with by democratic means.

Mostly, Brandt's performance here seemed part of an effort to create a new image of Germany in this country. Brandt, the youthful-looking 53-year-old former mayor of West Berlin and leader of the Social Democratic Party, joined the new government of Chancellor Kurt-Georg Kiesinger last December in a "grand coalition" aimed at solving foreign and domestic financial problems.

The image Brandt has sought to build is of a more flexible Germany, conscious of abuses of the past but also seeking to shake off the restrictions of the Adenauer era in promoting understanding with the East and determined to play a larger part in a democratic Europe.

Nowhere was this more apparent than in Brandt's symbolic gesture after his call on United Nations Secretary General U Thant today in signing the new International Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.

This was a far cry from the days 25 years ago when Hitler's Germany was murdering Jews under Nazi doctrines of racial superiority.

Democratic Germany, Brandt declared at his press conference, considers any doctrine of racial superiority "morally wrong, unjust and dangerous."