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** Evaluation Report

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1. The Soviet note to the western allies proposing the conclusion of a peace treaty with Germany is another link in the chain of Russian efforts to come to a satisfactory and final agreement on the German problem. After the failure of a similar attempt a year ago, which was a direct result of the breakdown in Paris of the Deputy Foreign Ministers' Conference, the Kremlin changed its tactical approach by ordering Premier Otto Grotewohl to invite the Bonn government to send delegates to an "All-German" assembly which would consider the convocation of a peace treaty conference. This offer appeared to be fruitless. The initiative of the Soviet Zone government(DDR) was thwarted completely when it declined to grant visas to the United Nations commission charged with the preliminary survey of opportunities for free and unfettered elections in the Soviet Zone. Despite their rejection of the commission, Otto Grotewohl and Walter Ulbricht reiterated their appeal for "All-German" elections in early January 1952.

2. Within a few weeks the DDR cabinet made a dramatic volte face. At a press conference in February, Grotewohl and Georg Dertinger offered the friendship of Eastern Germany and, by implication, the Soviet bloc, to France, if the French government would be willing to prevent a resurgence of German militarism.

Foreign Minister Schuman accused the Bonn government of harboring annexationist tendencies because of its attitude towards the Oder-Neisse line.

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3. This brief summary of Soviet tactics during the past year suffices to impress the following two facts on the political observer:

- a. The Soviet note addressed to the three western powers is predominantly a tactical move inspired by the realization that methods applied to date have failed.

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