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STATEMENT ON GERMAN RE-ARMAMENT.

Issued by the South African Peace Council.

Under strong pressure from the United States of America, eight Governments of Western Europe have agreed to the remilitarisation of Western Germany. Soon a new Wehrmacht will arise. Initially it will be 500,000 strong. According to Theodore Blank, de facto, Minister of War in the West Germany Government, That Government expects within two years of the ratification of the Nine-Power Agreement to have a stronger, more fully motorised army than any other Western European power. This army will be led by the Generals who were Hitler's Generals. It will be able, according to Herr Blank, in emergency to call on four to five million ex-servicemen of the Second World War.

The Bonn Government, which will control the most powerful army in Western Europe, has a number of Ministers who will serve Hitler well. Several were ardent members for years of the S.S. or S.A., Two were leading Nazi race theorists, including Globke, the man responsible for drawing up the Nuremberg Laws. Kraft, Minister without Portfolio, was interned by the British after the war as a dangerous Nazi. Schaeffer, Minister of Finance, was listed, even by the U.S. occupation authorities, as a collaborator and debarred from holding any important position. Von Bargaen, Minister for Special duties, was a member of the wartime Nazi Military Government in Belgium and France. General Speidel, now advisor to the War Ministry, was responsible for the burning of hundreds of Ukrainian villages.

The Nine-Power Agreement has not yet been ratified. The terrible step of rearming the States which a dozen years ago was ruthlessly trampling over Europe, killing, plundering and destroying, has not yet been taken. It can still be prevented. The parliaments of the nine States must be persuaded of the appalling consequences that would follow upon their ratification of the agreement.

The South African Peace Council protests against the remilitarisation of Germany. Such remilitarisation would be against the best interests and wishes of the vast majority of the German people. It would spell disaster for the whole world, including South Africa.

In the name of the millions who died fighting Hitlerism, in the name of the millions of innocent women and children foully murdered by the Nazis. The South African Peace Council calls upon all South Africans to join in the world-wide campaign to prevent such re-militarisation, to insist that the Great Powers should negotiate a World Pact of Peace, admit the Government of China to U.N.O., outlaw Atom and Hydrogen Bombs and end the Cold War.

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for SOUTH AFRICAN PEACE
COUNCIL.

P.O.Box 10528,
JOHANNESBURG.

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