

# Adenauer Says U. S. Showed Fear at 'Wall'

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Special to The Star

BONN, Nov. 2—Dr. Konrad Adenauer, who has retired from the West German chancellorship but emphatically not from the international political fray, says America showed itself "too much afraid" of the Communists at the time of the erection of the Berlin wall in August, 1961.

As a result of American fears, the chancellor said, Bonn-Washington relations reached their lowest ebb at that time.

Speaking out frankly on matters on which he had kept silent while still in Germany's highest office, Dr. Adenauer recalled in an exclusive interview that "for 60 hours after the Berlin wall began to go up, the mayor of Berlin could not get any response out of Washington.

"Perhaps if some sort of protest or action had been taken at once, the Russians might have backed down. But for 60 hours absolutely nothing happened. Even though the Russians had broken their treaties and erected the wall, the Americans put up with it.

"The Americans even tried to tell us it was a good thing because the flow of refugees was stopped. The German people were horrified. It was a tremendous success for Moscow. The Americans were too much afraid. You cannot imagine the despair of the German people."

## Questions Cuban Success

Dr. Adenauer was asked whether the success a year later of the Cuban confrontation did not in effect even the score, more or less, with the Russians.

"Was Cuba really a success?" Dr. Adenauer countered, pointing out that the Russians still seemed to be in the Caribbean.

Nonetheless, Dr. Adenauer said he had "hopes" that the United States would in the future react firmly to any attempted Soviet encroachments. He repeatedly emphasized Germany's dependence on America's military shield and said he was sure that the United States would never knowingly make a

"I believe," said Dr. Adenauer, "that Americans see clearly that Germany is the key to Europe. If that key falls into bad hands, it will be bad for Europe."

The two-hour interview was the first the 88-year-old statesman has granted to an American newspaper since he relinquished the chancellorship to Ludwig Erhard.

I first met Dr. Adenauer in the late summer of 1945 in Berlin. A mutual friend, Ernst Lemmer, who later became a high official himself, recommended Dr. Adenauer, then a mere 70 years old, as an up-and-coming German politician. We shared a dinner of spam and mashed potatoes.

Now times have changed, but not Dr. Adenauer. His spare, austere appearance is only slightly different and his vigor astonishing. He remains, of course, an important power as head of the majority Christian Democratic Party and also serves as a member of Parliament.

## Khrushchev Fears China War

Dr. Adenauer revealed that as long ago as 1955 Soviet Premier Khrushchev spoke to him frankly of fears that one day Russia might find itself at war with Red China. The conversation occurred during an official visit the former chancellor made to Moscow.

Dr. Adenauer expressed the conviction that "Russia cannot afford war."

"So long as the United States realizes that it is the main target of the Soviet Union and that its interests in resisting Russian encroachments are identical with those of Europe, then there will not be a war," he continued.

"Khrushchev is a clever, unscrupulous man," said Dr. Adenauer. "I have told President Kennedy many times not to trust him. . . . Khrushchev emphasizes peaceful co-existence because things are going badly for him and for the Russian people. He needs to say these things to deceive his own people."

The former chancellor doubted that Mr. Khrushchev would take any meaningful steps to lessen the cold war except to get Russia what it needs. Unfortunately, Dr. Adenauer said, the West is giving him what he needs in the way of wheat and chemical factories, for example, without asking anything in return to lessen tensions.

Dr. Adenauer's "retirement" has not shortened his work day. "I have not had even time to take my daily walk," he complained.