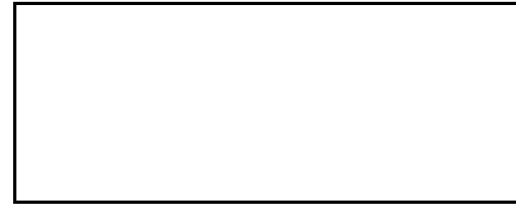


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West Germany - Poland: The two sides have drafted a text of a reconciliation treaty, but remain apart on the key issue of the finality of the Oder-Neisse line.

Tentative agreement on all but the most difficult portions of a text was reached at the fifth round of talks from 23-25 July. The basic elements, in addition to a border settlement, are pledges to abstain from the use of force and to normalize relations. According to a Bonn Foreign Office official, there may still be problems over precise wording, and in the meantime the text is to be regarded as a working document subject to review and revision by both governments.

After apparently discussing the Oder-Neisse issue at length, the negotiators settled on language stating that the existing border, "established" by the Potsdam Agreement, constitutes the western border of Poland. The German official thought this formulation could cause misgivings in Bonn because it might be interpreted as outright recognition of the border, rather than the provisional "acceptance" that Bonn has been offering.

For their part, the Poles, according to the official, flatly refused to accept a draft letter, separate from the treaty, acknowledging four-power rights for Germany and Berlin, lest such an act imply that the border settlement was provisional and subject to four-power determination. In view of this, the German official said it might be necessary for Bonn simply to exchange letters with the Western Allies restating their continuing rights pending a final peace settlement. Such an exchange would serve to protect the Brandt government from charges by the Christian Democratic opposition that it had given complete and final recognition to the Oder-Neisse line. French and British representatives have indicated concern, however, that this device might not adequately protect four-power rights.

Despite the remaining difficulties, the German official sensed that the Poles were eager to reach early agreement. He said that the two sides would meet next in Bonn between 4 and 15 September.

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