

Africans Want a Say (June 18, 1960)

Abstract

West German foreign policy towards Africa, and other “Third World” countries, was largely defined by two pillars between 1955 to 1970: the *Deutschlandfrage* [German question] (which was part of the Hallstein doctrine) and *Entwicklungshilfe* [development aid]. The Hallstein doctrine, at its core, held that recognition of East Germany by third countries would be regarded as an unfriendly act, and could lead to the cessation of diplomatic relations with the third country; the government of the Federal Republic of Germany claimed to be the only legitimate representative of the German people, and wanted the rest of the world to reflect that as well. During the years that the Hallstein Doctrine was in effect, a country’s answer to the “German question” determined whether it was eligible for development aid, demonstrating that many “Third World” countries became pawns in the games of both German states and the Cold War. Efforts like a political union of all of Africa’s independent states were an attempt by the newly decolonized world to push back against solely being used as political tools, and to develop political power and independence on their own.

Source

ADDIS ABABA, June 17 (dpa). At the Conference of African States in Addis Ababa on Thursday, Ghanaian Foreign Minister Ako Adjei appealed for a political union of all of Africa’s independent states. Previously, he had recommended convening an African “summit conference.” “We must make it clear to the United States, the Soviet Union, Great Britain and France,” he said, that we will not remain silent while they continue to “gamble humankind’s fate on the chessboard of international politics.” The great powers are keeping humanity in a state of unrest with their atomic weapons, and the Africans should join forces against this threat to peace and world security. Above all, the Africans must adopt effective measures to protect Africa from further atomic weapons tests by France or any other power.

The desire for unity among African states resounded through all the speeches. This unity, the speakers emphasized, would allow the voice of Africa to get a better hearing in international politics. All of the speakers also called for boycott measures against the Union of South Africa.

Source of original German text: “Afrikaner wollen mitreden,” *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, June 18, 1960, p. 3.

Translation: Pam Selwyn

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