

GENERAL TAYLOR PRESS CONFERENCE, TEMPELHOF, 22 APRIL 1956.

General Taylor: "I am very happy to come back to Berlin after a number of years of absence. I come for no particularly official purpose other than to revisit the city with which I have many contacts and which I am tremendously interested in. At the distance of Washington I followed the progress being made here in Berlin and I wanted to see with my own eyes the results of this cooperative effort between the Americans, our Allies and our good friends, the Berliners. I am a tremendous admirer of Berlin and the people who live here. I spent two very happy years as the American Commandant as you may know. I always felt that the atmosphere of Berlin is unique. It has the air and the spirit of the front line and the comradery of the associates who live here together surrounded by a communist world. I know that I am going to enjoy seeing the members of the city government and Dr. Suhr, my old friend, the Mayor, and in a short time I will be able to drive about the city to see some of the progress made. Naturally I am very much interested in the troops up here. The 6th Infantry Regiment was created under my command and I take great pride in that regiment. I want to see how it's doing and talk to the Commander and I want to talk to the soldiers. That's really my whole purpose".

Question: "Do you go back to Washington directly, Sir?"

General Taylor: "No, I will go from here tomorrow to Bonn and then to Paris. I'll get back to Washington about the 6th of May."

Question: "General Taylor, if the Bonn government should withhold support costs for the troops is there any thought of reducing the number of American troops in Germany?"

Question:
(repeated)

"The Bonn Government has said that they would not pay support costs for the coming year! And is there any thinking on our part, the United States that is, to reduce the number of troops?"

General Taylor:

"I know of no such thinking".

Questions:

"Would you be willing to say a few sentences in German for RIAS?"

General Taylor:

"Ich bedaure, dass mein Deutsch sehr eingerostet ist. In Amerika habe ich wenig Gelegenheiten Deutsch zu sprechen. Aber ich lese den Tagesspiegel, wenn diese Zeitung zu haben ist. Hello, Dr. Suhr! It's good to see you Sir!"

(Personal conversation between General Taylor and Dr Otto Suhr, Oberbuergermeister von Berlin. Not audible.)

Question:

"Are you going to play Tennis today?"

General Taylor:

"No, I just work today!"