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1. This proposal would have much to commend it, provided it were considered, not in isolation, but as part of a wider political settlement including some effective steps towards re-unification. It would then perform the useful function of confirming an intention peacefully to respect the settlement reached.

2. The general proposition as advanced has however a number of weaknesses. A non-aggression arrangement would be largely meaningless until real progress had been made towards removing the causes of East-West tension. It would not by itself solve any of the problems of European security nor contribute to a reduction of tension. Indeed, the record of such non-aggression pacts as have been signed is far from reassuring.

3. Furthermore, such an arrangement might formalize the status quo in Germany and thus diminish the prospects for German reunification; also it would give the NATO and Warsaw Pact organisations a political role which they do not now have. An arrangement which had the effect of crystalising the existing divisions of Germany and indeed of Europe would rather perpetuate present sources of tension.

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