

# Aims of Bonn's policy in east defined

RFA From ROGER BERTHOUD

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"A serious attempt is being made for the first time since the founding of the Reich in 1871 to put our relations with Russia or the Soviet Union in order, not against the interests of the west but with the full support of the west." Herr Scheel said this in an interview with a Black Forest newspaper before flying to Moscow.

He gave a good concise definition of the aims of the Government's eastern policies. These were: "To smooth the path to a European peace settlement; to increase the security of Berlin; to organize as much peaceful co-operation as possible, particularly in the economic, technical and cultural fields, thus safeguarding peace and strengthening Europe; and finally to loosen the confrontation between the German states, thus gradually reviving human and cultural relations in divided Germany."

The Bonn Government regards the conclusion of the treaty with Moscow—which will be put to the Bundestag for ratification only when there has been progress in the four-power talks in Berlin—as a first step towards a more united Europe in

which Germany herself might become more united. The treaty's opponents in the Federal Republic fear that it will seal the status quo in Moscow's favour and with it the division of Germany.

Herr Scheel, an extremely able negotiator with remarkable powers of endurance, certainly belongs by temperament as well as duty to the optimists. In Moscow his sunny and affable disposition and his reluctance to regard anything too deadly seriously will be well balanced by the saturnine and naturally cautious nature of Herr Egon Bahr, the State Secretary from the Chancellery.

The progress of the parallel talks in Warsaw, coupled with the strikingly moderate tone of recent statements from east Germany, suggests that Herr Brandt is indeed achieving significant success in improving relations with his country's communist neighbours. The fifth round of the talks with the Polish Government ended in Warsaw yesterday, having achieved what Herr Georg Ferdinand Duckwitz, the leader of the Bonn delegation, described as "all-round progress".