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Unpreparedness Of Western Powers Seen As Temptation To Russia To Begin Shooting

By DEWITT MACKENZIE
(AP Foreign Affairs Analyst)

Dr. Konrad Adenauer, chancellor of the west German government, declares that "the temptation to make war is greater for Russia than is generally believed."

The chancellor maintains that peace can be secured "only if the Soviet leaders are convinced of the futility of conquering Europe." Therefore he feels the "time has come to act" in order to demonstrate the futility by preparedness. One would find it hard to quarrel with the chancellor's assay of the situation. Russia has been building up her military strength in eastern Europe. She has consolidated her German zone of occupation, in which she not only maintains a great standing army but is creating a German military force.

Meantime western Europe, despite elaborate preparations for defense, isn't ready for a major war. And Adenauer points out that if western Europe were occupied by Russian armies "those who could contribute to the rebirth of a western democracy... would be liquidated."

If that is a correct estimate of the situation, then it is safe to assume that Russia must at least have given academic consideration to the general proposition. The idea of course would be to strike before the western nations were fully set for action.

So in theory, at least, the temptation for Russia to strike may be there. Of course it is precisely because of this that the military leaders of the 12 Atlantic treaty allies, including America's general Omar Bradley, are meeting this week at The Hague to consider regional defense plans. And linked in a general way was the meeting last week in Rome of America's six top European Ambassadors to consider ways and means of countering Communism.

Russia Not Fully Prepared
So the temptation might be there for Russia to strike a quick blow. However, Moscow certainly would find strong arguments against any such move.

Perhaps the greatest deterrent would be that Russia isn't yet prepared to compete with the United States in atomic warfare. Moreover, the conflict between Communism and Democracy in Asia is still in its beginnings. One wouldn't expect Moscow to undertake a two-front shooting war at this juncture.

If Russia were in possession of all Germany, the story might be different. That would give Moscow the key position in continental Europe.

However, the only way the Muscovites could get possession at this juncture would be through a shooting war, which most observers feel the Soviet union doesn't want. Therefore it is likely the Commu-

nists will confine themselves to fifth-column assaults on western Germany. The current preparations for youth demonstrations are part of the fifth-column offensive which daily gathers strength.

There's no reason to anticipate sweeping changes in the European situation pending further developments in the Asiatic theater. As this column has indicated previously, the balance of power in Asia will go far towards determining the conflict of the ideologies.

Still, as Chancellor Adenauer says, the temptation is there for Russia to make war in Europe. The answer to that is preparedness by the western Allies.

As for the cold war, Canadian Prime Minister Louis St. Laurent summed the thing up neatly in a speech at Toronto. He said the cold war depends on a change in the attitude of Russia, which "is not going to come overnight", and may not come for a generation.

Some worms have a branching sack for a stomach.



PVT. KEITH R. RADFORD, 17, son of Mr. and Mrs. Homer Radford, box 281, Canyonville, is now at Lackland air force base near San Antonio, Texas, the base has announced. He has begun the basic airman indoctrination course of 13 weeks which will prepare him for entrance into air force technical training and assignment in specialized work.—(Air Force photo).

Record mutual payoff in Hialeah's 25-year-history occurred this winter with Robber returning \$325 for each \$2 win ticket.

Elgarose

By MRS. THELMA HANSON
Miss Henrietta Johnson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Carl E. Johnson, is visiting at home during the spring vacation. She is a student at Oregon College of Education at Monmouth.

Miss Mable Wilkinson visited over the weekend with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Claude Wilkinson, of Laurelwood, Ore. Her mother returned home with her and will visit her sister, Mrs. Mary Hanson.

Mrs. George Hanson and daughters, Joyce and Linda, of Ukiah, Calif., visited last weekend with

Mr. and Mrs. L. C. Johns and other relatives of Elgarose and Camas Valley.

Arthur and Paul Backlund are at home this week visiting their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Backlund, during spring vacation.

Czech Catholic Held

VATICAN CITY, March 30.—Prague police have arrested Franciscan Father John Evangelist Urban, one of the church's most prominent spokesmen in Czechoslovakia, the Vatican radio said today.

The Vatican broadcast charged that Father Urban was arrested despite extremely poor health.

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