

Germany Raises Problems for Western Defense Strategists

ROAMING a diplomatic Valhalla somewhere are the ghosts of statesmen who worked in their time for a federated Europe.

Through the centuries political philosophers have sought the formula for a workable and permanent European union. One of the most successful experiments along these lines was conducted by France's Aristide Briand, Britain's Sir Austen Chamberlain and Germany's Gustav Stresemann in the five years following the Locarno Pact of 1925.

These three men came close to creating a united Europe based on a genuine cooperation among the great powers. They represented a new era in world politics.

The economic crisis of 1929, however set in motion those forces which, coupled with a passive League of Nations, wiped out the international confidence of Locarno.

Old Issue Reappears

Today the old issue of a federated Europe is back in the limelight. How to bring about a workable continental association is one of the major projects for western defense planners.

The motivation now is not so much the desire for international understanding which influenced Briand, Chamberlain and Stresemann, as is the necessity to fill the military vacuum which exists on the borders of the Iron Curtain.

The Schuman Plan and the European army plan are big steps toward realization of this 1952 version of a federated Europe.

West Germany formally ratified the Schuman Plan last week, agreeing to share her coal and steel with five other European nations for the next 50 years.

Top Problem

Chancellor Konrad Adenauer, an advocate of European union, called for the ratification even while he declared many Germans doubted whether France, one of the pool partners, seriously desires real partnership with West Germany.

This Franco-German mistrust is one of the toughest problems for defense planners in Europe. It centers on the Saar, a coal-rich, 1,000 square-mile territory linked economically to France but claimed by the Germans. Behind this squabble is the traditional French apprehension over German rearmament.

The French, and to a lesser extent the British, fear that the U. S., in its desire to balance Soviet military power in the East, is paving the way for Germany to achieve the hegemony on the continent she failed to win in World War II.

The restoration of Germany, potentially the most powerful country in Europe, has been greatly encouraged by the United States. This country has advocated a revival of Germany's arms production in good faith, balancing the risks of building up German industrial production against the menace from the East.

Most observers concede that America has gone about this policy with eyes open, but that doesn't help ally French and British concern over the possible future course of German foreign policy.

At the moment the West Germans hold strong cards and they know it.



They are aware of their military and economic importance to western defense. They say that if West German soldiers are to serve with the West, they must do so as equals. In addition, West Germany has demanded a place in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

The West Germans have also been cagey on the subject of defense contributions. It is generally known that the Allied high commissioners in Germany think that country should spend about \$3,200,000,000 for defense, a maximum of only \$2,300,000,000.

In the Bonn debate on German rearmament, 402 West German deputies argued this week whether to join the western defense system or remain aloof from plans to ward off possible Soviet aggression.

The Big Three western allies were ready to serve an ultimatum on West Germany demanding that she get on with the plan for German participation in western defense.

The French say a rearmed Germany must be bound by international political control that would make impossible a new German march westward. That means that Germany could have armed forces—but only as units in the European army.

Western diplomats view the German demands as outward signs of displeasure over the recent French appointment of an ambassador to the Saar.

The West Germans are incensed over what they call the appointment of an "ambassador to a part of Germany."

The foreign ministers of France, Italy, Belgium, Holland and Luxembourg had hoped to complete a draft treaty for the European army last week. The German demands threw these plans out of gear.

The forthcoming Nato conference, set for Feb. 16 in Lisbon, was intended to be a big ratification meeting.

Meanwhile, French Foreign Minister Robert Schuman, author of the Schuman Plan, is scheduled to meet with British Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden and U. S. Secretary of State Dean Acheson in London Feb. 13 and 14. Up for discussion will be the German problem and what to do about it.

Solution Possible

Basically, France and Britain want to see more western strength expected by the end of the year before putting Germany in marching order. The two countries also feel Germany must show she shares the West's objectives before she is admitted to Nato.

U. S. State Department officials point to German ratification of the Schuman Plan as proof that problems like the dispute over the Saar can be settled on a broad international plane.

The whole program for European union must be worked out against the backdrop of French and British concern over long-range results of a revival of the industrial colossus that is Germany.

Britain

The King Is Dead

For the first time since the days of Queen Victoria, Great Britain has a female ruler.

At 25, Queen Elizabeth has succeeded her father, King George VI, who died quietly in his sleep at his country residence in Sandringham this week.

For the first time in history, a sovereign acceded to Britain's throne while abroad in the Commonwealth. The new Queen Elizabeth received word of her father's death while on a royal tour in Kenya Colony, Africa. She thus became queen and ruler of millions of British subjects around the world.

The quiet family man who put royal duty above personal pleasure quickly endeared himself to his millions of subjects.

The monarch led Britain through her worst ordeal when the island kingdom faced victory-flushed German armies alone. His words of comfort, his prayers, his encouragement, helped Britons meet and turn back the foe's blitzkrieg. With his prime minister, Winston Churchill, King George VI will be long remembered for his part in "Britain's Finest Hour."

Though the days of his reign saw the empire shrink greatly, George VI and his family vastly increased the love and respect in which the royal institution was held.

In Short

Issued: an order by the Office of Defense Mobilization aimed at easing serious unemployment in some sections of the country by telling the men who let defense contracts for the Army, Navy and Air Force to put new business into unemployment areas on a negotiated contract basis rather than on the basis of the lower bidder.

Accepted: by President Truman, the resignation of Michael V. DiSalle as Federal price boss. DiSalle will run for the U. S. Senate in Ohio.

Studied: by the United States, the question of whether to close all American embassies in Russian orbit countries. A decision is expected one way or the other by next month when a meeting of U. S. ambassadors to Iron Curtain countries is scheduled in Paris.

The WORLD This WEEK

KOREA: Optimism and Cynicism Campaign Stirrings

AT THE Allied camp at Munsan this week there was both optimism and cynicism.

Some quarters felt an early settlement in the Korean truce negotiations could be reached. Others described the see-saw Communist truce tactics as "operation quagmire."

Brig. Gen. William P. Nuckols, official United Nations spokesman, summed it up this way: "There is less cause for pessimism."

Full-Dress Meeting

A full-dress meeting of the main armistice delegations was held this week for the first time since Dec. 4. It started the ball rolling on agenda item five—recommendations to the governments concerned for final settlement of the Korean problem.

The Communists proposed a high level political conference within 90 days after a Korean armistice to negotiate withdrawal of foreign troops, settle the Korean problem and resolve related issues in the Orient.

The Red agreement to consider this final item was taken by some as a sign that the Communists have hopes of an armistice eventually.

POW Exchange Issue

Rear Adm. R. E. Libby, handling the prisoner exchange issue for the U. N., said:

"For the first time I think we are in a position to settle the nuts and bolts of this situation. I think we can write the rest of the agreement."



U. N. PRISONERS OF WAR IN KOREA
"... we are in a position to settle this situation."

These developments came out of one session on prisoner exchange this week:

1. The Allies agreed to drop demands for the neutral Swiss International Committee of the Red Cross to handle the prisoner exchange. Instead, national Red Cross teams from Allied countries would work jointly with national Red Cross representatives from Red China and Red Korea.

2. The Communists clarified their stand on paroles. They said an oath by returned POWs would require only that prisoners refrain from participation in the Korean War, instead of all "acts of war."

3. The Communists agreed to return U. N. military prisoners—about 11,500 men—within 30 days after an armistice. The Allies said they would try to return Red captives—132,000 if all are willing—within 60 days but wanted 90 days written into the agreement to be sure of meeting the deadline.

Official Caution

In Tokyo meanwhile The U. N. Command cautioned against expecting a quick agreement.

The Reds still objected to minimum safeguards that would guarantee the return of displaced persons after an armistice. They still refused the idea of voluntary repatriation and they still insisted on the right to build fighter and bomber bases during the armistice period.

NEWSWORTHY



BEFORE DEATH STRUCK—King George VI with Princess Margaret and Queen Elizabeth less than a week before his death.



HIDDEN ARMS are uncovered by French Foreign Legion parachute troops in Tunisian nationalist center.



CAMPAIGN STRATEGY in current Indian elections is discussed by Premier Nehru and President Prasad.

CONGRESS: Testimony Time

STEAKS, shipped special from St. Joseph, Mo., provided a breathing spell for a group of Democratic lawmakers and the President of the United States this week.

Mr. Truman and 14 others, including House Speaker Sam Rayburn, met in a private dining room in the Capitol for their annual steak dinner.

Other action in the Capitol included closed-door testimony by Secretary of State Dean Acheson in connection with the payment of \$120,000 for the release of the U. S. fliers imprisoned recently in Hungary; testimony by Secretary of Defense Robert A. Lovett on the armed services money bill; Senate argument on statehood for Alaska and Hawaii; a House vote on phases of the Universal Military Training bill and a flurry on the anti-corruption front.

Katyn Forest Inquiry

A special Congressional inquiry into the Katyn Forest massacre in World War II was highlighted by the testimony of Col. John H. Van Vliet who said that as a prisoner of war in Germany he was taken under guard to the Katyn Forest in May, 1943, to "inspect" the massacre scene.

Van Vliet said he was convinced at first that the Germans had done the job, but reached the conclusion later that the Russians were responsible. He changed his mind after noticing that the uniforms and boots on most of the bodies were new and showed few signs of wear.

Van Vliet said his own experience in prison camp had taught him that clothing and shoes of live prisoners wore out rapidly and were slow to be replaced. That convinced him, he said, that the Poles had been murdered shortly after the Russians took them prisoner in 1940, rather than after the Germans overran the Katyn Forest in western Russia three years later.

Dates

- Tuesday, February 12**
Birthday of Abraham Lincoln. National Conference on Labor Relations opens in Pittsburgh.
- Wednesday, February 13**
Big Three foreign ministers meet in London. Gracie Fields to wed Boris Aliberovich, a radio repairman, on Isle of Capri.
- Thursday, February 14**
St. Valentine's Day.
- Saturday, February 16**
North Atlantic Treaty Organization Council meets in Lisbon, Portugal.

Middle East

Conciliatory Moves

The Middle East, which has been in a state of static crisis for more than six months, simmered down on the talking point this week.

In Cairo, Premier Aly Maher Pasha declared his purpose was to create a "healthy atmosphere" in order to reach a better understanding with the powers of the free world.

As Egypt, scene of recent bloody riots, gradually returned to normal, leading newspapers throughout the kingdom were filled with speculation on the future course of British-Egyptian negotiations.

Middle East Defense

From the beginning, observers assumed that any resumption of negotiations was certain to lead right back to the proposal for a Middle East Defense Command, the regional pact organization which would take over Britain's guard duties on the Suez Canal.

The Egyptians rejected the Middle East Defense Command idea—proposed by the United States, Britain, France and Turkey—at about the same time they scrapped the 1936 treaty with Britain last October and demanded that British troops get out of the Suez.

The British made it clear they could not abandon the strategic Suez at the start of the dispute. Foreign Secretary Eden offered, however, to revise the 1936 treaty to meet some of Egypt's objectives.

Logical Solution Possible

As for the Sudan, the second principal source of trouble for the British and Egyptians, Britain announced a plan for allowing the Sudanese people to decide between Egyptian rule or independence.

An Egyptian decision to join the Middle East Defense Command offered a possible solution to the Suez dispute. British troops in the Canal Zone would be reduced in number under the proposed plan, and would become a part of an international force which would include Egyptians.

The proposal of King Farouk as Middle East commander-in-chief, hinted at in a London newspaper, offered still another way to assuage Egyptian nationalist sentiment.

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Sidelights

- In Philadelphia, servicemen were polled at the downtown USO on what they like best about recreational centers. "Friendly atmosphere" ranked first. Dancing finished second with food third. Down in the number four spot—Girls.
- In Geneva, N. Y., 80-year-old Clarence J. Estey painlessly cut a wisdom tooth right alongside his complete set of false choppers.
- In Chicago four German shepherd dogs took over as night watchmen after intensive training at a local warehouse.

Quotes

Rear Adm. Alan G. Kirk, retiring U. S. Ambassador to Moscow in commenting on a statement by Russia's Jacob Malik that World War III already is under way: "What the Russians say is not always to be taken at full value."

Sen. Robert A. Taft, Republican presidential aspirant in answer to a reporter's question whether he would support Gen. Eisenhower if the latter should gain the GOP nomination: "I certainly would. I certainly would I might ask if you know whether he would support me."

UN: Assembly Adjourned

TIRED United Nations delegates filed out of the Palais de Chaillot in Paris this week. After three months of verbal maneuvering, the sixth U. N. Assembly had come to an end.

Chief western delegates to the U. N. felt the firm alliance of the western powers had held fast against the best efforts of Russia's Andrei Vishinsky and his highly vocal partners to tear it down.

They pointed out that the Soviet foreign minister failed in his determined drive to condemn membership in the North Atlantic Pact and was not able to block a resolution forging stronger bonds of collective security.

Important Achievements

The creation of a new disarmament commission for a try at international control of atomic energy and the approval of a broader program for collective security whenever aggression occurs were perhaps the most important achievements of this assembly.

The Political Committee approved the Russian motion to admit Italy, Finland, Portugal, Ireland, Jordan, Austria, Ceylon, Nepal and Libya if the western majority would approve the applications of Albania, Outer Mongolia, Bulgaria, Romania and Hungary. The motion was defeated in the full Assembly, however, when it failed to get the required two-thirds vote.

This marked the first time the United States had been defeated in the Political Committee on an impor-

tant issue. The implication was that the U. S. will have to work harder in future assemblies to hold its majorities on some issues.

Arab Bloc Abstains

The Asian-Arab group in the Assembly generally abstained on all issues involving the big power fights instead of going along with the United States.

At the beginning of the Assembly session, the U. S. and other western powers seized the initiative on the issue of disarmament. They produced proposals for a census of world armaments, including atomic weapons, with full inspection and verification of such a count.

These proposals brought only scornful laughter from Andrei Vishinsky at first. When the reaction of the other delegates went against him, his laughter quickly died.

Vishinsky fought in vain to bring up the Korean issue for consideration. The western powers won overwhelming approval for plan postponing U. N. debate on Korean political issues until after a military armistice is signed.

