

German Issue Spotlighted As EDC Action Falters

By J. M. ROBERTS JR.
Of The Associated Press
Dr. James B. Conant, American High Commissioner in Germany, predicted last March that the Western Allies would have to go ahead with independence for West Germany separately if the European Defense Community, originally conceived as a parallel action, was not established soon.

Now, with EDC shoved to the back burner by the French Cabinet situation, the German issue is being brought to the fore again as Britain and the United States consider alternative methods of mobilizing German strength against possible Russian aggression.

BOAT MISSED
Hopes for EDC took a leap recently when the French Socialist

party decided to give it full backing despite the opposition of many of its members in Parliament. The time was right for government presentation of the issue. But the boat was missed because of the fight over Indochina policy, the anti-EDC group in the assembly joined with the Indochina critics, and a situation has been created in which France cannot act on broad policy matters.

The British are now reported to have given up on EDC, although Secretary Dulles and other top American authorities still profess to think it will go through. The prospects for a government in Paris sufficiently stable to do it, however, do appear extremely dim at the moment.

This has resulted in a demand from Germany that the Allies go ahead with the peace contract, formally known as the Bonn Conventions.

At the same time, Britain is understood to be pushing for inclusion of an independent Western Germany in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization in lieu of her inclusion in a joint European army.

LACKS PROMISE
This idea doesn't seem to carry much promise of success. It would mean creation of a German army cooperating in NATO but subject to sovereign German control just as France's army is. That would be far more dangerous in French eyes than EDC,

and the very idea of it was the spur which caused France to propose EDC originally. France has a veto over NATO membership, and there seems to be no doubt she would use it against such a proposal.

Numerous French leaders, among them strong supporter of EDC, also point out that France is an occupying power in Germany along with Britain and the United States. Her zone is relatively small, but it lies along the Rhine between Bonn and Coblenz, a highly strategic area near America's biggest German bases. The French say flatly there's going to be no independent German mobilization in that zone.

Russians Narrowing Gap in Weapons Race

QUANTICO, Va. (AP)—The Defense Department's chief of research told American military leaders Saturday that the United States' margin over Russia in the weapons technology race is narrower than a year ago.

Donald A. Quarles, assistant defense secretary for research, had these sober words in public excerpts from an address he made to the defense secretaries' conference. The talk was delivered at a closed meeting and presumably included other and secret material.

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