

Reunification of Germany; Chances Of European Peace Discussion Topic

(Editor's note: This is another in the series of discussions in the "Great Decisions . . . 1957" program now underway in Jackson county. The topic today discusses German reunification and chances for real peace in Europe.)

In its essence, the European policy of the United States is focused on the future of Germany.

That's the thesis of M. S. Handler, bureau chief for West Germany for the New York Times since 1952, and a European correspondent for American news media since 1941.

Writing in the Foreign Policy Association's "Headline Series" bulletin, Handler pointed out that 1957 will be a critical year in German-American relations—because this is a general election year in West Germany.

Leans Toward U. S.
The Christian Democratic party, now in power under Chancellor Konrad Adenauer, has traditionally leaned toward the United States' view of the European situation.

But, Handler pointed out, "in the West German general elections of 1953 Chancellor Adenauer carried the country on a wave of enthusiasm for European unity. This enthusiasm was focused on the European Defense Community (EDC) treaty." But that treaty was killed by the French national assembly, and with its demise the idealistic picture of European unity began to disintegrate into one where national interests were again paramount.

Adenauer did succeed in getting West Germany into the NATO alliance. But Soviet doctrine then stated that reunification of East and West Germany would be impossible after West Germany has aligned itself militarily with the West. And reunification is, for the Germans, the number one objective.

Public opinion polls taken in Germany in July, 1956, showed that the Social Democrats had overtaken Adenauer's Christian Democrats in party preference, and that the "undecided" vote had swelled to 21 per cent.

Altered Situation
"Thus," Handler pointed out, "United States policy may have to take into account the possibility of a radically altered political and psychological situation in West Germany by the autumn of 1957."

The Social Democrats, who appear to be ahead in the running now, are not anti-Western. They are, however, willing to re-examine Germany's role in NATO, and they are definitely pledged to abolish military conscription. This would make it almost physically impossible for the federal republic of West Germany to provide the half-million men it has promised to NATO.

"There is no doubt," Handler said, "that the first task of United States policy in this present fluid stage is to answer the charge that it has permitted the German question to fall into abeyance . . . that it is giving lip service to reunification and, finally, that it is only interested in West Germany as a jumping-off place for attack against the East."

Concrete Moves
The Times bureau chief suggested two concrete moves which could be made by the United States immediately.

One would be moving the federal government of West Germany from Bonn to West Berlin—which Handler calls "a decision that would restore the German question to its proper place, galvanize the West Germans and arouse their enthusiasm and political combativeness."

The second decision suggested by Handler is that American officials establish closer relations with the Social Democratic party, which at this point looks as though it may succeed Adenauer's group.

"The Social Democratic case against the United States government," Handler reported, "is based on three main points: American refusal to consult them as a loyal opposition should be consulted; the state department's interference in the 1953 general elections on behalf of Adenauer, and the exclusive patronage given to the chancellor on the theory that he alone represents the German people."

Two Key Events
Two key events in January, 1957, may forecast whether Europe remains divided indefinitely into two hostile armed camps, or starts on the road toward genuinely peaceful co-existence between East and West.

Jan. 2 President Dwight D. Eisenhower agreed to "study" a Russian disarmament proposal which would, in part, reduce Western and Russian military forces in Germany and ultimately in all of Europe.

Jan. 7 Russia and Communist East Germany called for "a collective security system in Europe" which would involve reductions in troop strength on both sides.

There is nothing startling new about these ideas. For several years East and West have debated arms control and inspection, whether or not a reunited Germany should be allowed to join the Western military alliance, and on what terms Western and Eastern Europe can coexist peacefully.

Settlement Possible
What is new is that for the first time Western leaders are openly speculating that a settlement of this kind might be worked out.

Sen. Ralph Flanders, Republican of Vermont, suggested in December: "Let us gain West Germany's consent to neutralization in return for reunion. Let us propose that the Soviet government withdraw all of its troops from East Germany, Czechoslovakia, Poland and Hungary, while NATO withdraws its troops from West Germany. Let

can Europe get together?



Foreign Policy Association Incorporated

DIVIDED EUROPE—The map above shows international organizations and areas claimed by various European nations. The map was prepared in connection with the "Great Decisions . . . 1957" program in which German reunification and chances of real peace in Europe are discussed. The map shows NATO nations, and countries of the Warsaw Pact.

moving U. S. troops from Europe altogether; and no American statesman is willing to consider a European settlement that leaves Germany divided.

It is on just these provisions that Russian proposals differ most from the West's. The Jan. 7 communique issued jointly by Russia and East Germany calls for a European security agreement "comprising both German states before their reunification" and calling for "the abolition of

military bases on foreign territories in Europe."

Continued Division

In other words, Russia insists on continued division of Germany, at least in the foreseeable future, and the withdrawal of U. S. troops from Europe as well as from West Germany. The Communist East German government backs this position fully.

If East and West are to reach any agreement at all, observers agree, there will have to be some "horse trading" between opposing points of view. The question uppermost in these observer's minds is what does the West stand to gain or lose in negotiations with Russia?

On the question of German reunification, the U. S. position since the Potsdam conference in 1945 has been that this must come through free all-German elections. Russia, however, fears that free elections throughout Germany could lead only to a Communist defeat. In population alone, West Germany outnumbers Communist East Germany 50,000,000 to 17,000,000.

Compromise Concessions

To persuade Russia to compromise on German elections might involve such far-reaching U. S. concessions as withdrawal of troops from Europe, disbanding of NATO, permanent neutralization of Germany or leaving the question of reunification to the two German governments.

Armed force withdrawals were suggested by Russia in November, the Communist idea being to reduce during 1957 by one-

third the armed forces of the United States, Soviet Union, Britain and France now stationed in Germany.

The Flanders-Humphrey suggestion is more far-reaching, also asking the withdrawal of Russian troops from the satellite countries of Eastern Europe.

Some Westerners assume that Russia has been so weakened by unrest in Hungary, Poland and elsewhere that Russian leaders may be glad to pull their troops out of Eastern Europe. Also, Western military leaders have freely admitted that NATO's effectiveness depends on substan-

tial West German troops. Russia might be willing to make concessions in Eastern Europe if, by neutralizing Germany, she could insure that NATO would not be a real military threat.

Two Possibilities

Two other possibilities have been suggested. One is that Russia may now be ready to compromise on military matters in order to compete with the West in other fields—economic competition, infiltration, subversion and political activities.

The other suggestion is that Russia genuinely hopes to work out a peaceful settlement of Eu-

ropean problems in order to take care of internal affairs such as trade, industrial and agricultural development.

Still other observers doubt that Russia would even consider pulling out of Eastern Europe. This position appears to be strengthened by last week's evidence of a "return-to-Stalinism" swing among Soviet leaders.

How close the U. S. and Russian positions—notably on arms control—will come in 1957 may, some students of the situation say, determine whether or not Europe moves toward a permanent settlement during this year.

HURRY! SAVE!
ONLY A FEW LEFT!

Hotpoint MATCHED PAIR AUTOMATIC
Washer and DRYER

Original Price \$529.90
Just a Few Left! **349⁹⁵**

Model LJJ16 Model LBL

City Appliance, Inc.
"Jackson County's Exclusive Hotpoint Dealer"

127 NORTH CENTRAL
Opp. Penney's
Phone 3-5306

"I want you to have my Souvenir Record from 'Coke Time'"

Eddie Fisher

I'M WALKING BEHIND YOU
LADY OF SPAIN
DOWN-HEARTED

WISH YOU WERE HERE
OUTSIDE OF HEAVEN
I'LL HOLD YOU IN MY HEART

only **25¢**

YOURS THIS EASY WAY! Six favorites you've heard Eddie sing on "Coke Time" now on one record. You'll want to play them and hear them again and again! And you can! Purchase Coca-Cola at your favorite store and get the special coupon for this offer on every package. Fill it in and mail it with 25¢. Your record will be sent to you promptly . . . a prize addition to your collection. "Bring home the Coke!" . . . and send for your record today!

Standard RCA Victor extended play 45 rpm 7-inch record—not available in music stores.

...now she SAVES BY MAIL!

Sally used to spend precious lunch-hour time to add to her savings, . . . until she discovered the ease and convenience of our save-by-mail plan. The nearest mail-box is our 24-hour teller, and her credited passbook is back to her promptly by return mail. Why don't you try it!

Current Dividend **3 1/2%** Per Annum

FIRST FEDERAL
Savings & Loan Association of Medford
29 North Ivy Street • R. F. Kyle, President

Magazine Dealer Acquitted Friday

Salem — (U.P.) — Salem magazine dealer Claude Cummings was acquitted Friday night of charges he distributed indecent literature.

The jury deliberated about 9 1/2 hours, including time it took to read George Sylvester Viereck's "Men into Beasts," a pocket-type book which was the basis of the trial.

Circuit Judge Val T. Sloper instructed the jury to read the 25-cent book before returning a verdict. The trial lasted two days.

Earlier Friday, Judge Sloper overruled a motion of defense attorney Bruce Williams to dismiss the case on grounds the grand jury indictment was faulty.

The judge said that even if the book were fact as alleged by Williams instead of fiction as stated in the indictment, there was still ground for trial on a misdemeanor charge.

The book was an autobiographical account of Viereck's experiences in a federal prison.

Another Salem magazine dealer, Jack St. Clair, was indicted on a similar charge last November, but trial resulted in a hung jury. The trial was the first test of Oregon's obscene book statute.

The Dalles Woman Sentenced to Prison

The Dalles — (U.P.) — Mrs. Jean Olson, 24, The Dalles, was sentenced to four years in the state penitentiary Saturday after pleading guilty in Wasco county Circuit Court of starting a hotel fire in The Dalles last July.

The woman had been under investigation in connection with 13 fires in The Dalles last summer, including fires at three hotels or apartments and several businesses.

After her arrest for setting a fire in the Gates Block hotel, Mrs. Olson was sent to the state mental institution at Pendleton for observation but was released a month later.

"BRING HOME THE COKE"

Nothing like that real great taste, that bright little lift, to put you at your sparkling best! 50 million times a day somebody . . . somewhere . . . pauses for refreshment . . . with Coca-Cola.

Drink **Coca-Cola**

Regular-Size King-Size Family-Size

Bottled under authority of The Coca-Cola Company by COCA-COLA BOTTLING CO. of MEDFORD