

sovereignty to the German Federal Republic, the integration of this sovereign Germany into the Western community, and the appropriate participation of Germany in that community's common defence effort to deter aggression. Once that has been done conferences or diplomatic discussions with the Soviet union on Germany, on Austria or on any other subject can be resumed and the west can then talk from strength and unity.

It was hoped about a year ago that we would implement this policy of German association with the west through the European Defence Community. Those hopes, of course, have been destroyed. We supported the European Defence Community. We supported it in this house two years ago. So it was with deep concern that we watched the dramatic developments of last summer when Mr. Mendès-France undertook to obtain at a special conference in Brussels the agreement of the other signatories to the modification in the EDC treaty which he claimed would be necessary if that treaty, after two years of indecision, was to be approved by the French Parliament.

As we all know, the Brussels conference did not succeed, and soon after EDC was rejected entirely. The resulting dangers were great. Western solidarity and unity of purpose were shaken. The hopes which EDC has aroused for closer European unity and Franco-German co-operation and friendship were in danger of being replaced by disillusionment and despair. In the German Federal Republic the unceasing effort of Chancellor Adenauer to rally the German people to support a close and lasting alliance with France and with her other free European neighbours might soon be lost in cynical and destructive nationalism. The danger also existed that the allies, short of patience and dismayed by the difficulties entailed in devising a new European system, might try to disregard France and work out separate agreements with the Federal Republic of Germany.

During those months which saw the end of the European Defence Community, and indeed in recent weeks also, there has been talk of a European and Atlantic security system functioning without France. In my view this is careless talk, or worse, as it ignores the great importance of France politically, strategically and industrially. I do not think any Atlantic or European system of security really could be satisfactory or effective to which France did not willingly contribute.

The importance of France to collective European security is not restricted to its strategic or economic role. We should be poorer culturally and weaker spiritually if we had to attempt to arrange our own defences of those of our civilization without the participation of the country to which we owe so much. Therefore a Western alliance which excluded France or which was forced on France against the wishes of the majority of the population is not, as I say, a