

Mr. Pearson: Of course, there are alternatives to E.D.C. but I do not think it is advisable to dwell on them too much too publicly at the present time; if you believe that E.D.C. is the best proposal for the purpose. As a matter of fact, it is the only proposal before us at the present time and that is why we are anxious to get some decision. It has been before us for a couple of years but I think it is a mistake to take the view that it is E.D.C. or nothing.

Miss Francis: At a recent press conference, Secretary of State Dulles told the French that the United States would have to make an "agonizing reappraisal" of its present policies if France did not pass the E.D.C. Now what is your personal opinion about that method of approach to the problem?

Mr. Pearson: I think that if the E.D.C. did not turn out to be a practical solution in the sense that the French did not feel that it was practical from their point of view - and we must consider France - then France and all western European countries would have to make a reappraisal of foreign policy because we would have to think again as to how to bring Germany into the western system; that is essential. All reappraisals of foreign policy are "agonizing".

Question: Just for clarity's sake it might be a good idea to state briefly just what the E.D.C. is - what France, I believe, originally proposed but now is hesitating "agonizingly" about getting into.

Mr. Pearson: It was a proposal to build up a European army which would be apart from national armies - it would be a European army with national contingents from the various member countries under European control and European direction, and behind which there would be certain European controlling political agencies. That is, in very brief outline what E.D.C. means.

Miss Francis: I understood that one of the objections that France has put up is that Great Britain would not be a member of E.D.C. and neither would the United States. Now would an alternative proposal be that Germany would be part of NATO in which the stronger powers would act as a check.

Mr. Pearson: That would be an alternative and it has been suggested by various people - that Germany could be brought into the western defence system by membership in NATO. But there are people who would object to that because it would mean a German national army under the German General Staff.

Question: Could the approach be to have a bilateral treaty with the United States and Germany?

Mr. Pearson: That is another way it could be done - to rearm Germany and bring her into association with the west by special treaty arrangements; special treaty arrangements, if you like, between Germany and the NATO countries. However there are objections to that too.