

a country from oppression by a majority of a different race. Provisions to this end were written into the treaties of peace, and one of the duties of the League of Nations was to watch over their observance.

Today there is another problem. In several countries disciplined minorities, prompted and supported from abroad, have succeeded in imposing their rule on the majority. This is what has happened in Czechoslovakia, in Hungary, in Poland, in Rumania and in others of the satellites. This new technique of conquest has been achieved by bloodless, or almost bloodless, methods, and often with an appearance of legality. However legal in form, its success is not based on any principle acceptable to the democracies; and it brings with it the simultaneous introduction of all the deplorable machinery of the police state.

The democratic countries have thus been set a new and very tough problem. It is not the old problem of protecting the rights of the minority from being subverted by the majority, difficult though that is. It is a new problem, whether it is possible to protect the rights of the majority, perhaps a very substantial majority, from being subverted by a minority practising the political strategy of communism of the Soviet brand. What happened three or four weeks ago in Czechoslovakia was but the last stage of this process, the assumption of complete power by men already largely in control. A pressing current danger is that the pattern will be repeated in Italy and in other countries now outside the iron curtain which are very important to the safety of the rest of the world.

It was Benjamin Franklin who said at the signing of the Declaration of Independence, "We must all hang together or assuredly we shall all hang separately". Last week the United Kingdom, France and the Low Countries concluded a far-reaching economic and military alliance. Simultaneously the President of the United States told Congress: "I am confident that the United States will by appropriate means extend to the free nations the support which the situation requires. I am sure that the determination of the free countries of Europe to protect themselves will be matched by an equal determination on our part to help them to protect themselves". Last week also Mr. Mackenzie King, in greeting the signature of the Brussels Treaty, said: "It is a step towards peace, which may well be followed by other similar steps until there is built up an association of all free states which are willing to accept responsibilities of mutual assistance to prevent aggression and preserve peace."

These are good signs of determination that free countries shall no longer be "hung separately". It can be done without conflicting with the Charter of the United Nations. It was foreseen at San Francisco that the Security Council might be paralyzed by the veto, and what are now Articles 51 and 52 were added to the Charter. Article 51 preserves "the inherent right of individual or collective self-defence" pending action by the Security Council. Article 52 authorizes regional agreements between member states. The Charter was designed as a constitution for the international community. Although it is far from a perfect instrument, the trouble today does not arise from its defects, but from the fact that there is no international community. There is no common purpose among the nations to join together in an honest search to remove the troubles that plague the world. We cannot have a collective system without a collective will to make the system work.

In the economic field the European Recovery Program should accomplish a great deal if carried through as projected. It is a continuation on a larger scale of the efforts to restore stability which

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