

- Mr. Daniell: I have just come from Europe recently and I have the feeling that people's hopes are being very greatly played up about the possibilities of this conference. Don't you think that the net gain, if the conference is held and fails to reach agreement, will be offset by the disillusionment psychologically?
- Mr. Pearson: That is always the danger, of course, at international conferences, that hopes may be raised that cannot be and are not fulfilled and the resulting disillusionment means a setback rather than progress in the easing of international tension. Now that might happen in Berlin and that is why I say we should not go overboard with optimism. But that is no reason why we should not, all of us, do our best to make things work out successfully.
- Mr. McKeown: Well, it seems to me that there have been two communist views of relations between the Soviet Union and the rest of the world. One is that communist and capitalist states could live together and the other is that they could not and one must dominate the other. Is there any hope that Malenkov holds the second view - that we can get along together. Or, sorry, the first view!
- Mr. Pearson: I hope he doesn't hold the second view! We must hope that any Russian leader may hold the more cheerful view because if you accept the other view as an inevitable and automatic directive for all Soviet policy then there would be no hope, unless that Soviet regime were overthrown.
- Question: You mentioned a few minutes ago that the West and the Soviet bloc were widely apart on the future of Germany and on European policy generally. It has seemed to some observers that the West itself is pretty badly split on just what should be done. Is there a concerted Western view and, if so, what is it?
- Mr. Pearson: I think that the Western nations - and when I talk about them we are thinking of the United States, the United Kingdom and France and other western countries - I think the three countries most concerned in formulating a western policy have come much closer together in recent months as to what should be done about Germany.
- Question: What about this dispute over the European Defence Community?
- Mr. Pearson: That is another, though of course related, question but I am thinking now of the German question as such - the unification of Germany.
- Mr. Daniell: I believe, Mr. Pearson, I read somewhere the other day that you were quoted as saying that you felt that the E.D.C. - that is the European Defence Community - was perhaps the best way of bringing Germany into the defence of Europe but not the only way. What alternatives did you have in mind, because our thinking has been that the only alternative was perimeter defence that is exposing Europe to attack and occupation.