

troops in occupied Europe west of the Soviet frontiers, no less than 400,000 of whom are stationed in Eastern Germany, where they are the European spearhead of the 175 divisions of the Soviet army.

So much, then, for the absurd contention that the present Western defence programme is a hostile, aggressive move which threatens the Russians and their peace-loving friends, who have never had any policy or any plan, so we are told, except peaceful coexistence in a world without arms.

We should also examine the false assertion that the adherence of the Federal German Republic to the West European and North Atlantic communities would make the west responsible for perpetuating a partition of Germany, which the Soviet Union would like to see ended. It is worth recalling in this connection that the original plan, which was agreed to at Potsdam in 1945 among the four victorious allies, called for a peace treaty with a democratic, freely elected all-German government. Hon. members will recall, I am sure, the frustrating years when, despite Western efforts to implement the Potsdam agreement in this regard, the Soviet Government refused to allow their zone to co-operate economically or otherwise, with the three other zones of Germany. The Soviet rulers had decided that unless and until they could ensure a united Germany which would do their bidding, they would make of East Germany a communist puppet state, which of course they have done. And so it was this policy that resulted, in September 1949, in the creation of the German Federal Republic, in order to achieve the maximum degree of democratic unity which was possible in the circumstances.

There are those today who are saying, some with sincerity but others, the communists, with calculated deceit, "Why do we not have one more conference with the Soviet on German unification and on a peace treaty before taking the final step to ratify these agreements?" I would remind those persons that from October 1950, until the present time there have been at least 16 occasions on which France, the United Kingdom and the United States, the occupying powers of Western Germany, have in notes to the Soviet Government or the Government of the German Federal Republic, in notes to the authorities of East Germany, proposed, as a basic condition of agreement on German unification, the holding of free elections under a form of international supervision which would ensure that those elections were honestly carried out.

One of those occasions was the conference in Berlin among the foreign ministers of France, the United Kingdom, the United States and the Soviet Union, which took place less than a year ago. For 25 days every possible avenue of approach to a mutually acceptable solution of the problems of German reunification, and peace treaties for Germany and Austria, was exhaustively examined, but all to no avail. Surely that conference exposed in a clear-cut and unmistakable way the obstinate