

*NATO—European Defence Community*

Dr. Adenauer for having told the bundestag that the treaties must be ratified soon to suit the convenience of the United States. Here is a direct quote from Dr. Pfeleiderer:

I do not know whether the West German government realizes that public opinion disagrees with it. We are indignant about this attempt to link one of the weightiest decisions on our future with the election campaign in a foreign state.

He was referring to the election in the United States. Many Europeans believe that the haste and pressure coming from the United States is to some extent due to the political situation in that country. I might add that I have seen several articles lately in which it has been indicated that the democratic parties of western Europe are quite alarmed at the choice of General MacArthur as keynoter at the Republican national convention. They fear the election of Mr. Taft on that account, perhaps unfairly, but nevertheless there have been some outspoken comments regarding that particular matter. Dr. Pfeleiderer goes on to say that the Germans wanted every aspect of reunification explored thoroughly before the treaties were ratified. He added that "the Germans want reunification and peace, not war".

One could go on with a number of similar statements. I think our own position has been pretty well stated in the official statement which the C.C.F. national executive released to the press on May 25. I should like to put it on the record. It reads as follows:

The C.C.F. regrets that the governments of the United States, the United Kingdom and Western Germany are persisting in their determination to sign the German peace pact at this time. The signing of this pact may well mean an end to all hopes for the unification of Germany and, therefore, enables the communists to exploit German nationalism for their own ends. Furthermore, the evidence is clear that large sections of the German people, probably the majority, are opposed to it and it is doubtful whether the pact will be ratified even by the present Bonn parliament.

The national executive of the C.C.F. fully supports the position taken by the national executive of the British Labour party and other socialist parties in Europe. We urge the governments concerned to reconsider even at this late date. An attempt must be made first at four-power negotiations for the unification of Germany and for free elections. To refuse even to attempt such negotiations is to bear the responsibility for the permanent division of Germany. Sooner or later this will almost certainly alienate the support of the people even in Western Germany and may well make the whole scheme of west European integration a hollow shell. In any event, such a final act as a peace pact should not be pushed through against the will of the people of Western Germany. It should, therefore, wait until new elections have been held there, in which the German people may declare themselves on an issue which means so much to their future and to the future of peace.

I think the note I would like to emphasize in that statement is the note that is struck

in statements from all the western European democratic parties—that we must beware lest the haste that has been shown plays directly into the hands of the communists in western Europe. If we try to force on western Europe policies that will not be supported by the vast majority of the people of western European countries, we are playing directly into the hands of Russia and the communist parties of both eastern and western Europe.

I repeat again that such rearmament or, shall I say, such co-operation in the defence of western Europe as may be desirable and must be achieved should be on the basis of the integration of such German forces as are necessary under the allied general staff divorced from a German general staff, and as far as possible under the leadership of the western democratic nations. Unless that is done we shall be building up in Western Germany an armed force—and this I am certain is what France really feels—which one day may co-operate with the force that is being raised and has been raised in Eastern Germany; and once again France, Europe and the world generally will be faced with the accomplished fact of a strong German army threatening the peace of Europe and of the world.

We are on the horns of a dilemma, it is true, because we are threatened with aggression across the world from behind the iron curtain. I know they profess they are defending peace and are desirous of maintaining the peace of the world, but I wish I could see more evidence of their desire to co-operate with the peace-loving peoples of the world to bring about in the world conditions which will lay the foundations of permanent peace.

This morning, the hon. member for Peel (Mr. Graydon) in discussing German rearmament pointed out something which I know is in the minds of many people, and that is the tremendous improvement in the industrial and economic situation in that country. Indeed that is largely due to the fact that they have not had to dissipate their efforts in raising armies, building air forces and navies, and to provide armaments for the forces they raise. As long as that condition continues they are of course at an advantage and we are at a disadvantage. To some extent I think that the idea of allowing Germany to engage in the production of arms—indeed not only allowing her but pressing her to do so—may be motivated in some quarters from the point of view that it will relieve other industrial nations to some extent in that field and at the same time cause Germany to engage