

of hostilities in Europe—part of its general purpose of deterring and preventing war.

While the division of Europe remains (and it is likely to continue in the seventies), the problem of security will be one of the fundamental concerns of the European countries, both East and West. This problem has two main interrelated elements, one being the East-West political and ideological struggle, the other the division of Germany. Neither of these seems likely to be resolved quickly but hopes for the future are to be found in certain encouraging trends today:

- There is general acceptance that satisfactory solutions for East-West issues cannot be produced by force.
- There is continued popular pressure for a better life, even in countries where the people do not have freedom of expression.
- There are signs of a new desire on the part of all the European countries to pursue more actively the search for negotiated settlements of the outstanding problems.

Changes in the Communist World

The continuing division of Europe does not mean that Eastern Europe has been immune to change—on the contrary. In the East European countries the ferment of freedom has been at work and there has been a trend, halting but significant, toward economic and even political reform, and a greater emphasis on national aspirations. This has, in turn, created demands for greater freedom of national action within the Communist bloc and modified both the monolithic nature of the bloc and the predominant position of the Soviet Union. In Czechoslovakia in 1968, the pace of change became so rapid that the Soviet leaders apparently saw no alternative but to intervene militarily in order to maintain their control over events. That intervention naturally dealt a hard blow to *détente*, that is, the reciprocal search to improve relations between the countries of Eastern Europe and Western powers generally. It did not, however, destroy the widely-held conviction that there is no realistic, long-term alternative to *détente*, even though each side may interpret that process in a different way. The important thing is that both sides should share the desire to avoid nuclear war and be interested in pursuing mutually beneficial forms of co-operation.

Finally, there is the fact that the Soviet Union, with increasing concern, is looking over its shoulder at China. Sino-Soviet differences have had a further unsettling effect on relations and conditions within the East