

We have learned, from the past, something about the causes of war; how they come from national rivalries, ambitions and fears; from disunity and weakness on the part of peaceful democracies, which make them seem easy and tempting preys to totalitarian aggressors. We must keep on trying to remove these causes, and the Paris agreements will help to that end.

For one thing German entry into the Western European Union, which the Paris agreements make possible, sets up a partnership between Germany, France, Britain, Italy, Belgium, and The Netherlands. This partnership in WEU, within the broader framework of NATO, will serve to overcome Franco-German suspicions and enmities, which have in the past led so often to war. By bringing Germany as a partner into our Western Community, to which the vigorous and hard-working German people can contribute much but which, since Britain, France and the United States are also members, they cannot hope to dominate, we are giving the German people the opportunity to learn a political lesson which they so greatly need. It is precisely by participation in partnership that nations, as well as individuals, learn to prefer co-operation and good will to domination and being feared.

I submit that it is both wrong and foolish to try to deal with Germany now as a rejected, unequal people in international society. Nothing could be more calculated to lead the new post-war generation of Germans to conclude that their choice lies only between isolation and cynicism on the one hand, or the search for domination and aggressive strength on the other. Surely the sensible course is to bring the Germans into the North Atlantic community where they are only one of 15 partners. That is what we are trying to do.

It is also a lesson of history that race theories - including race theories in reverse - and discrimination against large and industrious peoples, breed resentment and that resentment can breed war.

A third lesson is that autonomous, unlimited military establishments, under purely national control, in countries like Germany and also elsewhere, are dangerous. But under the Paris agreements, Germany is not to have such a military establishment. On the contrary, she is to participate with other countries in a defence system which is already highly international in organization and control, and which is becoming more so. Under these agreements, the German forces, when they are raised, will be under the command and control of the Supreme Allied Commander of NATO. This allied Headquarters will have charge of communications and supplies and troop movements, of the German and other national components. Another safeguard, of great importance, lies in the fact that there are stationed on the continent of Europe, and indeed mainly in Germany itself, British, American and Canadian forces. This is all very different from the situation in the 1930's.

There are also, as part of these Paris agreements, a whole series of checks against independent military action by Germany or any other of our allies on the continent of Europe.