

concessions and some reassuring words from the successors to Mr. Stalin in the U.S.S.R., nothing that had happened up to that time gave us cause to believe that the basic objectives of Soviet foreign policy had changed or that soviet leaders were, in fact, ready to accept a reasonable solution to major international problems. After a careful examination of all the reports of the Berlin conference dealing with Germany, Austria and the general subject of European security, it seems clear that the conclusion I put forward on January 29 holds true today. There has been no evidence of change in the basic foreign policy objectives of the Soviet Union. At Berlin, the same record was played, although it was played somewhat more softly and for that I suppose we should give thanks.

One of the foreign policy objectives of the Soviet Union has been to split the European allies, and indeed other allies, from the United States of America; to crack the solid structure of Western unity. Mr. Molotov at Berlin made it abundantly clear that this was certainly one of his principal aims. But we can all take satisfaction out of the fact that he failed in achieving that aim. Indeed, the Russian tactics served to strengthen, I think, the unified approach of the Western delegation to international problems. The teamwork and the tactics of the Western foreign ministers at Berlin, which were I think admirable in all respects, have quite possibly increased the sense of common purpose in the peoples of the free world. A stronger Atlantic community spirit might, I think, be listed as a positive achievement of that conference.

The attitude adopted by the Soviet delegation, their refusal to agree to the unification of Germany with free elections or the peace treaty with Austria, has also served to remove--if we still had them--any lingering illusions about Soviet policy. I suppose this also can be listed as a positive achievement of the conference. It is a melancholy fact, but a fact nonetheless, that in the world in which we live we must count as a step forward the removal or reduction of false hopes, because false hopes can be dangerous. Clearing the ground of illusions and facing the situation as it is makes, I think, more likely the formulation, and eventually the realization, of sound hopes and attainable visions of secure peace.

Since the Berlin conference some progress has been made by the countries of Western Europe towards the establishment of the European Defence Community. In Belgium, for instance, the Senate has approved a bill for ratification of the EDC treaty, which earlier had been passed by its house of representatives. In the Netherlands the final steps in the formal process of ratification have been completed. In the Federal Republic of Germany, Parliamentary approval has been received for constitutional amendments which would put beyond doubt the right of the German Republic to participate in Western defence. In both France and Italy, however, formal parliamentary debate on the EDC treaty has not yet begun. We must hope that it will begin soon.

The Canadian Government, as I indicated in my last statement, has welcomed indications that our friends in Europe intend to unite their forces in the interests of continental defence and continental co-operation. We have not taken the position that EDC was the only means to this end,