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## MR. PEARSON ON WORLD AFFAIRS

tries. It would I think be a great misfortune if it were abandoned now.

"The establishment of the European Defence Community is the best and quickest way of implementing this policy. It is the only proposal now under consideration, and it came originally, we should not forget, from France itself.

"But it is not of course, the only way it could be done. West Germany could, for instance, be permitted to rearm as a member of NATO. She could also rearm outside NATO but in treaty relationship with NATO countries. But not many of those who oppose EDC would support either of these courses as a preferable solution to the problem. The EDC could be altered into an arrangement of co-operating national armies instead of a consolidated supra-national European army.

"This weaker form of EDC could then be brought into association with a stronger and more unified NATO, which would have greater collective control over the national defence budgets and policies of its members. But there are also objections to this idea and it is unlikely that it would secure greater support than the present EDC proposal. However it is to be done, close and organic association with a free, strong and cohesive international community, European and Atlantic in character, with membership in the United Nations, provides I think the best guarantee that the military strength of a revived Germany will be used only for defence purposes.

## COSTLY LUXURY

"There is one thing we can be sure of. The Communists will use these German and European questions as they use every other opportunity to divide and weaken the free world coalition. If the situation seems to be a little less critical now the temptation is therefore the greater to relax and indulge in the costly luxury of quarelling among ourselves. If we yield to that temptation too often we will soon dissipate the unity and strength that have been so patiently and effectively built up, especially since the establishment of NATO.

"Personally I am more than ever convinced that the continuing cohesion of all the Atlantic powers, not merely the European powers, is vitally important to the preserving and reinforcing of the peace of the world and that no security and no stability can be achieved through isolated arrangements, either in North America or in Europe. Continentalism, whether of the European or American variety, is not enough for safety.

"Because of this I feel that the essential steps which are required to bring about European unity can be taken only when there are also close and continuous lifelines across the channel and indeed across the Atlantic. One of the most heartening developments of the post-war period has been the building-up of those

lines which are now I think, or at least I hope, strong enough to stand the strain, psychological and otherwise, on certain European countries, of including Germany in our arrangements.

"Obviously that inclusion must be brought about in such a way that the fears that come from the past will be replaced by new hope for a future where Germany will be only one country in a group that will embrace more than Germany and even more than Europe.

"This question naturally leads to the consideration of the meeting between the Foreign Ministers of the four great powers going on at Berlin at the present time, a meeting which seems to have got down to business with a minimum of argument over the agenda. We can at least take some encouragement from that. It is to be hoped that this meeting will concentrate on the Austrian and German problems and that something constructive will come from it. It seems hard to understand that in 1954 Austria, one of Hitler's first victims, should still be occupied while other countries which were his accomplices have long since had their prewar status restored by treaties.

"As for Germany, we shall soon see whether or not the Soviet Union is really prepared to allow its unification on acceptable terms, namely, under a government freely elected by the whole of the German people and with freedom to make its own political arrangements, within of course the framework of the United Nations charter. I think we can express a hope for some good results from this meeting, but we should not expect too much from it.

## NUMEROUS OBSTACLES

"From even this cursory survey of European affairs it is clear that there are still numerous obstacles to be overcome before the security and prosperity of the free nations of the Atlantic community can be insured. However, I think there has been a significant advance from the fear and instability of the immediate post-war period, and for that I suggest we ought to be grateful to NATO.

"NATO's work, which I think has been pretty effective in this regard, is far from finished. Indeed it is just getting under way. It has taken time for the decisions taken and the plans approved to bear fruit, and their full impact has only recently begun to be felt. For the majority of NATO countries the proportion of the total output of their economy devoted to defence is only now reaching its peak. According to General Gruenther, the present Supreme Commander in Europe of NATO forces, the forces under his command have approximately doubled since 1951, and the gain in their effectiveness, in their modernization and in their fighting efficiency is greater still. These NATO forces are now strong enough to make an aggressor think twice before taking them on.

"But the Soviet and satellite forces are also being steadily increased in numbers and