

either of economic stability or political security in any part of Europe. Up to the present, there has been no such agreement and there seems to be little immediate hope for an overall settlement.

The policy of Russia seems to be to insist on action entirely and exclusively in her own interest or, if that is not agreed to, on inaction in the hope that the dislocations of the economy of Germany and the drain of the resources of the United Kingdom and the United States and France, which these dislocations make inevitable, will so weaken them as eventually to force a decision on Russia's terms.

Naturally, it is a matter of concern for the U.S.S.R. as it is for the other states, that the industrial potential of Western Germany and the strength of the German people shall not again, some day, be directed against any one of them. We recognize that interest.

It is possible to recognize the force of some of the Soviet claims without agreeing to the establishment of a powerful central government in Germany, susceptible to communist influence or to a 10 billion dollar account for reparations out of current German production, or giving to the U.S.S.R. a voice in the control of the Rhur and the Rhineland, unless her attitude in regard to Eastern Germany radically changes.

The present stalemate threatens to bring about the total collapse of Germany unless proper steps are taken at once to prevent it. Yet, as long as the German economy lies stagnant, the occupying powers have to make vast expenditures to maintain their troops and to prevent actual starvation of many millions of people and the Western European countries, like Holland and Belgium and France and Italy which normally derive substantial benefits from trade with Germany are handicapped in their own recovery.

There is in all this, a chain of vicious consequences which is of course exploited by the communist parties. Distress and starvation and even despair are stirred by the communists, into political disorder and ideological strife. Starvation becomes a weapon of political warfare. Misery becomes a political platform.

In fact Communism has, in Europe, extended its control under Soviet leadership and direction over such countries as Roumania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Yugoslavia, Albania, Poland and now Czechoslovakia. Finland and the Scandinavian countries are under pressure from Moscow and fifth columns are active in Italy and France. It is only in Greece and Turkey of the Eastern European states, that the advance of communism has been checked.

At the moment, Greece is a key point in the struggle against aggressive communism, and is recognized as such by the British and United States governments. Turkey is another important sector of this front and assistance is being given her also in an effort to put her in a position to defend herself from threats and attacks from outside.