

German representatives is I think acknowledged as necessary. It only remains to be seen whether the German government can satisfy the people of Europe of its ability to qualify for such membership, to satisfy them that it will cooperate in a democratic and responsible manner and that it will renounce the national aspirations and ideas which in recent years have been in conflict with the interests of Europe, and for that matter with the interests of the world as a whole.

The outside judges of Germany's fitness to enter European society must be primarily Germany's European neighbours who have suffered so much in the past from German aggression. Nevertheless I think it is clear that before this judgment can be given Germany must have a democratic and responsible government composed of representatives of the German people qualified to speak for them in the council of Europe. The Canadian government welcomes the establishment of a democratic Federal Republic of Germany whose mandate we hope will soon run over a united Germany. The participation of such a democratic republic in the European community I think is fundamental to the rehabilitation of that community.

In both France and Italy the large communist parties have suffered very serious set-backs in recent months in political prestige. Among the workers the use of the strike as primarily a political weapon for the furtherance of Soviet aims was demonstrated in the attempt a year ago to bring down the French government in Paris. The strikes failed as did similar strikes attempting to upset the government of Italy.

In Finland the communists have also attempted to use strikes as a weapon to bring down the Finnish government, but that government has refused to be provoked or intimidated. The result was a complete defeat of the communists after a great deal of economic damage had been done to the country. We can only admire and respect the firm equanimity with which the government and the people of Finland have dealt with this threat to their institutions.

In Norway the communists have recently received a severe defeat in the elections of that country. In Greece conciliation with its northern neighbours has so far failed. Having sat in on a conciliation group of four for twenty-six meetings recently at Lake Success, I have some understanding of the reasons why that conciliation of Greece with its northern neighbours has failed and I can assure the house that it was not due to the Greek government or its representatives at the United Nations. Nevertheless, in spite of that failure, the national army of Greece has, in a period far shorter than we would have expected even a few months ago, driven out the guerilla bands and brought a new instalment of peace to that unhappy land so long split by civil strife. We sincerely hope that this improvement in the situation will make possible the strengthening of stable and progressive democracy in Greece, and the improvement of economic conditions there.

The mere recital of these events indicates, I think, that the nations of western Europe are exerting good will and energy in their own reconstruction and in co-operative relations with their neighbours. But they are democracies in which the conditions of freedom must be respected. Each of them has its own traditional methods of thought, and its own established way of life. Therefore, in the arduous search for a basis of international agreement on economic, political and strategic European problems, they must, I assume, remain free to put forward their own claims and free to accept the necessary compromises. Democracy in international as in national affairs is government by agreement, not by verdict, and agreement between nations, however well disposed towards one another, must always take time. I venture to suggest therefore that we should not be unduly impatient if they have not made greater progress towards the consolidation of Europe than has in fact been the case in the last year.

There are still many obstacles in the way of further progress towards western European unity. Fear and uncertainty are probably the most conspicuous, fear of war and uncertainty about the economic future. These disintegrating elements lie at the root of most of the conflicts and stubborn differences of policy that retard progress towards European unity, but nevertheless a very real