

External Affairs

her countryside was ravished. Her people were brought into subjection by a powerful Germany.

I can understand the French position. I can understand the French, when they see these pressures put on them to co-operate and to allow Germany to rearm. I can understand their being in mortal terror of what may come to them in the future if Germany does rearm. And when we read, as no doubt they have read, that many of the leading nazis are taking active parts both in government and in urging rearmament in that country, we can understand why it is so difficult to achieve this European defence community.

I am personally of the opinion—in fact I believe I speak for my colleagues in this regard—that we cannot see an independent, rearmed Germany. We cannot see a German army, under a German general staff, not only because of the danger to France but because of the danger to the world—and because of our experience in two wars.

Of course we cannot forever expect the western powers to defend western Germany. If plans can be devised to integrate German manpower into a western army, but not under German military control or under former nazi officers or non-commissioned officers, then of course there is a possibility of finding a way out. But so far as we are concerned, there can be no question that we do not go along with the idea that there should be a German army, under German control, integrated into the European community defence system.

That, I think, is the fear of France. And I think France has another fear, too: that if you build up a German army in western Germany, the day may come when the army that has been built up in eastern Germany may join with the one in the west and, once again, we will see a powerful military machine in the very heart of Europe, ready to take sides, and, perchance, to take sides with the nation that will give the best deal, if that best deal would promote the interests of a new German nation. So when we are talking about the European defence community do not let us be impatient with France. Because, as I said, I have very considerable sympathy for the French point of view in this regard.

Then I should like to say just a few words about trade. Mention has been made of this subject this afternoon. I think whenever opportunities for trade present themselves we should take those opportunities, provided, of course, that it is not trade, from our side at least, in strategic materials. I was surprised to hear the hon. member for Prince

[Mr. Coldwell.]

Albert at least by inference describe food as a strategic material. I would not deny the people of Russia food, if they were starving; neither would I deny food to the people of any other country. Food is a strategic material—and perhaps the hon. member meant it this way—in the sense that we should be using our great surplus of food so that it can be placed in the Far East, or elsewhere, to help assuage the hunger of the people in those areas.

But, in the connection in which it was used, it certainly gave me the other impression. I think whenever we can trade with China, or with the Soviet union, or with Czechoslovakia, or those other countries, we should do so. We trade with Spain, and Spain is a pretty complete dictatorship, achieved by revolution. There is very little freedom for the people in Spain, but we do not hear much about that. There is very little freedom of thought in that country under General Franco. But we trade with Spain. Indeed, we do not ask, in many parts of the world, when it comes to a matter of trading relationships, what kind of governments they have. After all, trade may lead us to a better understanding.

And I am not afraid of these people. I think that if democracy means anything to me, then it means that we have something better than communism can ever offer us. I am not afraid of it. I am not afraid when it is suggested that we get a few musicians in here to play their music in Canada. Surely to goodness we need not be afraid of a few musicians who would bring their instruments into this country. In Great Britain they are not afraid. Surely, with the same type of democratic institutions and the same type of democratic people, we do not have to be afraid of allowing a group of musicians into our country to play for us or to dance for us, or something of that sort.

Indeed, cultural relationships may assist very greatly in bringing about understanding, because art and music are not things of a national type. These are international things and perhaps we can speak, through music and art—

Mr. MacInnis: You know what the Scots did to the English with the bagpipes.

Mr. Coldwell: Well, of course, under our old Tariff Act the bagpipes were never regarded as an instrument of music; they were regarded as an instrument of war. At times, I believe, they were a very effective instrument of war. I see some Scotsmen in the house looking rather sternly in my direction. I can assure them that if I said anything offensive I quickly apologize and withdraw, because I have a very great admiration for my Scottish