

C247793

-6-

Such are the horns of the dilemma. There is no reason to suppose that the German people have any desire for a division of the Reich; in fact the indications are nearly all the other way. Presumably then they would resent what they would regard as an unjust and arbitrary act, and would wish to regain the economic and political advantages of unity. If the allies decide to break up Germany they must also decide, by force if necessary, to keep it broken up, for the alternative would bring a worse state than ever. Can they so decide? Will the peoples of the United Kingdom, United States, Canada be ready to fight to prevent German unification twenty-thirty or fifty years from now? If the answer is "Yes", and it is regarded as for the common good of the world, then Germany can be cut into parts.

The Government of Germany

Suggestions have been made for elimination of National Socialism. It is, in fact, commonly taken for granted that Nazism must be abolished. But how? Possibly the German people will overthrow that regime. It has enemies within Germany - how many of them no wise man will guess. Many other Germans who have been active or passive supporters will turn from it when military failure takes away its prestige and its power. It is also not unlikely that an effort will be made by Germans to set up a Government more palatable to the United Nations, better calculated to turn away their wrath, and so able in a degree to protect Germans from their crimes and their failures.

The response of the Allied Governments to such a move will indicate their views on the vexed question of whether there should be drawn a distinction between the Nazis and the German people. The pendulum of opinion has already swung more than once on this issue, but - if present indications show a future trend - that rather fruitless controversy is likely to be abandoned, at least by Governments. It now appears to be probable that the only distinction will be between those who are directly named as "war criminals" and those who are not. It would follow that other consequences of the war would fall, as far as allied action is concerned, on the German people in general.

The problem of the domestic government of Germany will differ according to whether or not the country is to be broken up, and - in the event of the latter course - the principles on which it is done. If, for example, it were decided to isolate and penalize Prussia, there would probably follow a more generous freedom of action to a south or west German state.

Leaving aside that complication for the moment, however, the general question may be examined. Two principles have been enunciated: (1) that the Hitlerite régime is to be overthrown, (2) that the United Nations (by the Atlantic Charter) "respect the right of all peoples to choose the form of Government under which they will live". Perhaps it may be decided that the Hitlerite régime is not a form of Government, emphasizing by a somewhat specious logic the form rather than the reality.