

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 proposals. 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 defensive purposes.

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 quarrelling 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 life-lines across the channel and indeed across the Atlantic. One of the most heartening developments of the postwar 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