

we are confident that the peoples of western Europe will continue to respond successfully to the challenge presented to them by the threat to everything they cherish in the remorseless advance of communist totalitarianism.

It is not only in the European recovery program, the Paris convention and the Brussels treaty that the democratic states have given proof of their ability to work together. They have also demonstrated this by the progress which they have made in bringing about administrative and other reforms in western Germany.

The internal state of affairs in Germany, even before the European recovery program was put forward, was a cause of concern to the three western occupying powers. These powers, already overburdened, were carrying a heavy additional load as a result of their resolve that Germany should not become a vast slum area and a menace to the physical and political health of the world.

From time to time all four occupying powers in Germany have been obliged to take measures for the efficient administration of their respective zones. Until the failure of the meeting of the council of foreign ministers in December last, these measures were largely of a transitory nature and, in general, have been based on the assumption that a German peace treaty would shortly be concluded. But the failure of the last foreign ministers meeting and the non-co-operative policy adopted by the U.S.S.R. in German matters, demonstrated that this assumption was no longer a reasonable one to make. Moreover, conditions in the countries occupying Germany, in the countries bordering on Germany, and in Germany itself did not permit indefinite delay.

Early in February, therefore, the United Kingdom and the United States promulgated a new constitution for their united zones, which placed upon the Germans a necessary degree of responsibility for their own public business. This responsibility should contribute to the re-education of the Germans in democratic and peaceful processes of government. Care, however, must be taken to see that it does not contribute to the re-emergence of Germany as a potential aggressor.

Following the promulgation of this constitution, talks were held in London from February 23 to March 6, in order to secure as great a measure of co-operation as possible in Germany between the United Kingdom, the United States and France. These talks have been resumed in the last few days.

Three of Germany's neighbours--Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg--have a specially direct and urgent interest in a number of the problems under discussion. Western Germany has long been their normal source of supply for many essential goods, especially coal and iron, and their economic welfare depends to a very great extent on that of the western zones of occupation. It can therefore be understood that a discussion of administrative and practical arrangements for inter-zonal co-operation, especially in economic matters, should take into consideration this special position of the Benelux states. They were accordingly invited to take part in some of the discussions at London.

It was the Canadian Government's attitude that the special association of the Benelux countries with the occupying powers in the London talks was a reasonable and necessary stage in the effort to bring about closer economic co-operation between the countries of western Europe. We regarded the participation of the Benelux countries in these talks as a step toward the realization of the European recovery program which we had already welcomed. We continue to insist that we have the right to effective participation in any general German peace settlement, when it comes to be made.

It is hoped that these London talks will end much of the enervating uncertainty which has beset Germany since her defeat; and that western Europe generally will profit from the stability which three-power