

Germany in central Europe. Neither in 1914 nor in 1939 was such an alliance effective in preventing war, though that alliance later contributed enormously to Germany's defeat and punishment. The second method, which is new, and not yet tried, is to bring Germany into an alliance of west and central Europe against aggression, an alliance in which European unity can develop for other than defence purposes. And we have that in the European Defence Community.

The Canadian Government has already expressed its support for EDC as a method for associating Germany with the European system and with the Atlantic community. Surely the harnessing of German rearmament to a defensive collective purpose would provide the best security for all, east as well as west, from the possible danger that Germany isolated and with renewed strength in central Europe, might once again play off east against west and eventually be tempted once more to follow the old policy of defeat and attack, subdue and occupy.

I do not think myself that a solution of this European problem, which is also an Atlantic problem and therefore a Canadian problem, can be found in Germany's disarmament and neutralization, or indeed in Germany's rearmament and neutralization. That solution might of course and indeed does appeal to the communists for obvious reasons. It would mean the exclusion of Germany from the developing European system, and it would release her from any responsibility for sharing in collective defence against aggression. In any event, as I see it, such a solution even if it were desirable - and it certainly has its appeal - is simply not practicable. For four or five years, perhaps; but surely it is unrealistic to base any permanent policy on the disarmament, the control and the neutralization of 65 million Germans inside their present boundaries. Surely it is better to bind Germany, not only to the rest of Europe, but to the Atlantic community. I know it will be argued that the Russians and their satellites will simply never agree to this, and therefore will never agree to any unification of Germany on these terms. Nevertheless, this is the policy that has been accepted as best and wisest in the present circumstances by the German Republic, the United States, the United Kingdom and France, by ourselves and by many other countries. It would, I think, be a great misfortune if it were abandoned now.

The establishment of the European Defence Community is the best and quickest way of implementing this policy. It is the only proposal now under consideration, and it came originally, we should not forget, from France itself.

But it is not, of course, the only way it could be done. West Germany could, for instance, be permitted to rearm as a member of NATO. She could also rearm outside NATO but in treaty relationship with NATO countries. But not many of those who oppose EDC would support either of these courses as a preferable solution to the problem. The EDC could be altered into an arrangement of co-operating national armies instead of a consolidated supra-national European army. This weaker form of EDC could