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The decision on whether a policy of forced dismemberment should be adopted is of the greatest importance, for on it - more than on any other factor - may hang the stability of Europe and the peace of the world. The difficulty of reaching a decision is due in large part to the impossibility of answering these questions : (1) will there be an international organization capable of restraining aggression? (2) would the interested States, through such an organization or otherwise, be ready to continue the necessary controls on Germany, for an indefinite period, from outside?

If either of these questions could be answered in the affirmative, there would be no difficulty in deciding against the dismemberment of Germany. For what can confidently be assumed is that German nationalism, though it might be forcefully held in chains, would feed on adversity and become more dangerous. Disunited Germany could then be kept so only by the continuance of the use of force. Admittedly the separate German States would not be a danger as such; but if force is available to keep Germany apart, would it not also be available to restrain a United Germany from re-arming or in other ways breaking whatever controls are considered necessary.

In view of the absence of any fully satisfactory alternative the idea of dismemberment cannot be lightly dismissed; but of all the solutions of the German problem it appears to be, in the long range if not in the short, the most difficult and the most risky.