

GOVERNMENT



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WEEK'S EVENTS IN REVIEW

GERMANY IN EUROPEAN DEFENCE: Holding that it would be a "grievous tragedy" if the end of EDC meant the end of the move to European unity to which EDC was dedicated, the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. L. B. Pearson, told a Canadian National Exhibition luncheon audience in Toronto on September 7 that there should be a new attempt to associate Germany with the Atlantic system through NATO.

After listing and eliminating such alternatives as keeping Germany neutralized and disarmed, doing nothing "and hoping that something would turn up," and giving West Germany back her sovereignty now, unconditionally, "and again hope for the best," he said:

"We return, then, to the only possible solution: bringing a free Germany into close association with a group of other free countries in a manner which will permit Germany to contribute to collective security, but which will ensure that she not become strong enough to dominate or control the alliance or any of its members.

"This, it was hoped, could be done by an EDC linked to NATO. That hope has been destroyed. Can a different kind of EDC, with more limited supranational powers, and a wider membership, take its place? Not, I should think, without many months of negotiation and many more months of parliamentary discussions before ratification. But there may be no longer enough time for this, and as each month passes, the difficulties in the face of such a solution will increase.

"There is left, then, the association with NATO of a Germany, with her sovereignty restored and the occupation ended, brought about in a way that will remove the anxieties of Germany's neighbours, and which will strengthen the whole Atlantic system of collective defence and, therefore, strengthen the peace.

"Furthermore, a Germany lined with NATO should not hinder, indeed it should even help the related move towards closer unity among NATO's European members. While this is a question for European countries to decide, and too much counsel and advice from overseas is of doubtful value, nevertheless, a Canadian possibly has the right to express his view that it would be a grievous tragedy, the effect of which would extend far beyond Europe, if the end of EDC meant the end of that inspiring and imaginative move to European unity to which EDC was dedicated. The free peoples of Western Europe, in an age when atomic warfare makes a mockery of old boundaries and old fears and old prides, will surely rise above these present difficulties and will not permit the progress already made to be stopped or reversed.

"Surely it is important, for all these reasons, that a new attempt to associate Germany with the Atlantic system should be pressed quickly and vigorously and steadily until the desired result is achieved. This, however, is not the same thing as saying that an international conference at which final decisions would be taken or even attempted, should be held the day after tomorrow. My own