

We now have a type of government and a political system in western Germany which are democratic and European-minded. Surely -- and I mentioned this a few minutes ago -- we should do what we can to encourage and strengthen that type of government, not weaken it by suspicion, mistrust and rebuff. That government, moreover, is led by a man who believes in freedom, peace and co-operation, a great European and internationalist, Herr Adenauer.

It is also, I believe, reasonable to believe that national self-interest will counsel the Germans to stand by these agreements, which are not imposed on them but which have been freely negotiated with and accepted by the government which they have chosen for themselves. Surely in that respect the situation is very different from that of the 1920's, when relations of the victors in the war with Germany were characterized by uncertainty and vacillation. We never did make up our minds then whether to treat Germany as a new friend or an old foe, and as a result we got the worst of both worlds.

Quite apart from the pressing fact of the Soviet threat to Western Europe it would, I submit, be wrong and foolish to deal with Germany now as a rejected, unequal people in international society. If we do so they will soon conclude that their choice lies only between isolation and a brooding introspection, or seeking domination and aggressive strength on their own. Surely the sensible course, even if the threat of communist aggression were removed, would still be to bring the Germans into the West European Community, which includes the United Kingdom, and into the North Atlantic Organization where they would only be one of 15 members, including the United States, and which they could not hope to dominate. It is precisely by such participation in partnership that nations as well as individuals learn to prefer co-operation and good will to domination and submission.

Though I can certainly understand and deeply sympathize with the hesitation and soul-searching which I know are involved for very many in the issues we face, it is nevertheless my conviction, I repeat, that the course of wisdom is to bring about German participation in the western coalition where we can work together for the common security and welfare.

I believe I should take enough time to examine another aspect of the matter. What are the alternatives? There is a good deal of criticism of this course, part of it sincere and genuine criticism, but very rarely do I ever read or hear of any satisfactory or better alternative than the one which is before us. What are the alternatives which would produce a better policy?