

ECHOES OF
THE INSTITUTE

Should we have a North Atlantic Military Alliance?

YES, said Dr. William Sollmann, recalling that, tragic and terrible as it is, Bismarck's law of "blood and iron" still holds. YES, said Ted Silvey, reluctantly, to buy time for ERP to do its work through economic means.

NO, said Rayford Logan, it confesses the bankruptcy of UN and will only lead to interregional instead of international wars with the same terrible result. NO, said Elmore Jackson and Henry Cadbury, voicing the AFSC point of view.

NO, said Frederick L. Schuman, professor of Political Science at Williams College, writer on foreign affairs and former political analyst for the Federal Communications Commission.

Such an alliance began to take shape with Churchill's speech at Fulton, Mo., in 1946. It has developed through the Truman Doctrine, the military aspects of the Marshall Plan, Conscriptio, "and all the rest." The reaction of the Men in Moscow is simple and obvious: America prepares for war, she encircles the Soviet Union with a long string of foreign military bases; she seeks ultimately to destroy us.

This looks plausible from Moscow; not so plausible from Syracuse or Washington. But although we can not afford to evaluate our policy in terms of others' estimates, neither can we afford to ignore such estimates.

Communism is an aggressive and expanding force, but it is not true that it has expanded by military force. Russia's expansion in Eastern Europe is by virtue of unsuccessful aggression against her; in North China, by political and moral force, not by military means. Against such an advance a military pact is both irrelevant and ineffective.

In criticism of American Foreign Policy: East-West trade is essential to recovery; our present policy is to restrict it. Our resources are adequate for ERP or Rearmament of Western Europe, not both. Moreover, the latter defeats the former. In such an attempt the free enterprise system will become less and less free, less and less enterprising, as Government takes over more and more. The proposed regimentation of our economy is the logical concomitant of our foreign policy. Likewise, we may expect less and less liberty and less and less democracy. We are in the process of losing the things we cherish most in the very act of protecting them. Jim Bristol's story is apt here. He tells of an African tribe who were given a sundial. They proudly learned to tell time but as their regard for their treasure grew they determined to protect it by building a shelter around it. No sundial!

Abroad the effect of a Military Alliance may well be the opposite of that intended. It will surely provoke counter measures; it may promote war. If so, Russia may be expected to occupy all Europe and in an attempt to solve the problem by bombing we shall be involved in monstrous acts of barbarism even more barbarous than those we oppose, without being likely to win the war.

The extraordinary and increasing ineptitude with which our foreign policy has been conducted of late gives an enormous advantage to Russia in terms of propaganda. Apparently in our policy of peacemaking we must prevent peace from breaking out! So far we have been very successful in this. Russia keeps making proposals to which Washington must say no, no! Millions of simple-minded people draw the obvious conclusion. Seldom have so many blunders been made by so few in so short a time! Each is a victory for Russia and succeeds only in making us look foolish. Our state was likened to that of a man crossing America on an express train. As the train flashed by station after station the man exclaimed at each: "O, my goodness, O, my goodness!" Finally a curious seat-mate asked him if there was something the matter with the stations. "O no," replied the traveller, "but I got on the wrong train!"

There should be a reconsideration of our whole pattern of policy; instead, and because the Senate has discovered that the proposal is unconstitutional, we are more likely to get a North Atlantic Treaty consisting only of empty words which all governments will hold as proof of America's unreliability and so prove a diplomatic defeat. If, added to this, as seems likely, there is a separate arrangement for military lend lease, it in turn, will be interpreted as determination to launch World War III.

"The leaders and people of both countries have permitted themselves to be hypnotized by hate and fear. The cold war will go on until in the fullness of time and the providence of God we destroy each other or we decide 'Let us have peace!'"

FOR THE NEGATIVE, also: Sumner Welles, former Under-Secretary of State (12-7-48):

"By the negotiation of an exclusive Western military alliance outside of the United Nations, as though there were no Article 51 in the Charter, the United States is paving the way for a world division that may destroy the United Nations.

David Lawrence, Conservative columnist, (1-14-49): "Present prosperity is underwritten by billions being spent for armaments. Ending of 'cold war' could bring economic upheaval in United States. Peace is still worth price of possible recession."

Demaree Bess, chief European correspondent for Saturday Evening Post, (1-29-49): "But there seems to be a growing tendency over here (in Europe) to feel that the original enthusiasm (for the Marshall Plan) may evaporate if our program falls under military domination. For the strongest support for European cooperation has come from those who look upon it primarily as a substitute for war."

SCHOOL OF PEACE EDUCATION

Spring Term

Course I. "God's Will in World Affairs," by "Professor" Kirby Page of California. A one-day conference under the auspices of the American Friends Service Committee in three sessions, including dinner (\$1.00) at Park Church Parish House. Tuesday, March 29. No admission fee. Collection.

Course II. "The Third Alternative," by "Professor" Wilfred Wellock of England. An afternoon seminar at Hendricks Chapel and an evening lecture at the Museum of Fine Arts under the auspices of the Syracuse Peace Council. Friday, April 8. No admission fee. Collection.

Course III. "A Message from the East," by "Professor" Bayard Rustin, now in India. Co-sponsored by AFSC and SPC. Afternoon and supper conferences exclusively for Teen-Agers. Tuition, including supper, \$2.00. At the YWCA. Evening lecture and forum open to the public. Tuesday, May 24. An offering will be taken.

SPECIAL from the FRIENDS COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL LEGISLATION "Congressman Rankin has proposed H.R. 2681 which would provide \$90 a month pension for veterans of both World Wars at age 65. Estimated cost first year \$100,000,000, increasing to several billion later. Believe this dangerous extension military and veteran influence in both government and economy. Many Congressmen feel helpless because no vocal opposition. Urge maximum expression immediately, not only yourself but your friends, business associates, neighbors, church and civic groups. Keep up efforts until bill is disposed of."

SHOE, SHOE, GREAT hordes of people in Europe have gone shoeless through freezing BUTTON MY SHOE! cold this winter. Children have outgrown and outworn their shoes; grownups have walked sometimes a hundred miles to return to their homes, arriving often with only rags tied about their bleeding, swollen feet. Men returning from concentration camps, or discharged from the armies, need shoes so they may find work again. Children wear boards tied to their feet.

Here's a suggestion from the Chairman of our Clothing Committee: Go to your favorite shoe store, explain the need and ask for a gift of odd pairs no longer salable, or the outgrown shoes that are often left by parents of small children. Assure the manager of the reliability of the distributing agency (AFSC). The plan has been tested by two of our members who have recently done this very successfully. 722 N. Salina Street, please!

W F B L "Stories to Remember," thirteen week series, prepared by the Institute for Democratic Education, is devoted to problems on inter-group tension. Saturdays, from 9:30-10:00 P.M. We invite you to listen and learn.

THE FINANCIAL CORNER An up-to-the minute report of the finances of the Syracuse Peace Council shows the following financial situation on the basis of the \$5,200.00 budget:

Table with 2 columns: Item, Amount. 1. Cash received on budget on present fiscal year, \$1,925.40; 2. Pledges received on budget, 1,042.00; 3. Estimated unpledged income, 1,000.00; 4. Amounts still to be subscribed, 1,232.60.

Many of you, who have received our letters and pledge cards, have not yet responded. May we direct your attention to that amount still unsubscribed and urge you to act as quickly as possible.

One additional suggestion and we will cease to press you for funds (until our cash gives out). The suggestion: Many have already paid in cash \$5.00 or \$10.00 who could, and probably would, pay in cash the same amounts again within the fiscal year if asked. How about planning another cash gift when you have it to spare about the first of October? You will have our heartfelt gratitude if you keep this in mind during the coming months.

Thank you again for your wonderful and generous response to our campaign and for your tangible showing of interest in the work of world peace and world relief.

Signed: C. P. TORRANCE, Chairman of Finance.

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