

Behind the News

The Non-Negotiable Line

By LAWRENCE CAMERON

Lying beneath the surface of the present Berlin crisis and at the bottom of most East-West clashes in Europe is the festering problem of German re-unification. While the NATO nations have supported West German Chancellor Konrad Adenauer's hopes of eventual re-unification, the Soviets have made it clear since World War II they will entertain no single Germany other than a communist one.

Germany in 1945 was divided according to the Yalta agreement, which provided no express basis for re-unification; an assumption of one Germany could appear implicitly in the fact that the division was an "occupation" and further that a peace treaty would be signed with a single government. This assumption, of course, depends on which side is making the interpretation.

SO BY SIGNING a peace treaty with West Germany alone, France, Great Britain and the United States gave legal status to the present Oder-Neisse boundary. It was evident then as now that the Soviets had no intentions of allowing their zone to rejoin its brother territory, much less of returning any pre-war German territories such as East Prussia and Silesia to the enemy's control.

Accusations as to which side caused the present situation may fly in both directions, but now the West must face the fact that for several very compelling reasons, a divided Germany will be a non-negotiable adjunct of Soviet policy for many years to come.

For one thing, it takes more than 17 years for the Russian people to forget a war which killed at least one—and oftentimes many—of each and every family. A concession which put a re-unified Germany less than 300 miles from the Russian frontier—and right on it if East Prussia was returned—would cause a bad case of political indigestion not only in the USSR but also in Poland, Czechoslovakia and Hungary.

AND IT IS also true that the Polish are far more anti-German than anti-Soviet; thus whether the communist regime believes its own propaganda or not, it pays to take advantage of the widespread Germanophobia in the satellite nations and at home.

Anti-German propaganda with some base of truth is easy to generate and generally revolves on three points:

- West Germany is re-arming.

- Ex-Nazis occupy high government posts.
- Konrad Adenauer, in addition to lending silent support to irredentist groups, also actively supports re-arming and condones former Nazis in high places—among them his foreign minister, Gerhard Schroeder.

All of the above statements are true. Germany, the Russians can say, is rebuilding her arms industry—total production capacity is now above World War II levels; she has 600,000 men under arms and a 2-million-man reserve. The German "revenge seekers," they continue, are carrying on atomic research, spend about \$2 billion a year on the military and have men and supplies on foreign soil.

THERE ARE strong mitigating features to German rearmament, however, such that these accusations apply more to NATO than to West Germany alone, but the Soviets omit their enumeration.

Among other points, the Soviet propagandists do not state the relationship between German troops and supplies on foreign soil and actual military potential. The fact is that Germany, in stockpiling two-thirds of her supplies in other NATO countries—notably Great Britain and France—has obviated the immediate possibility of her launching a unilateral attack against anybody.

The German Federal Republic's forces have no general staff, and as soon as a major unit is 70 per cent activated it passes automatically under NATO command. In addition, most West German arms are foreign-manufactured.

What militates more than any other factor against a Nazi-type

resurgence, however, is the European-oriented attitude of both the political leadership in Germany's two major parties and of the business community. Indeed, the atomic research mentioned by the Soviets is not home-grown, but rather in the form of contributions to Common Market agencies, devoted to peaceful use of nuclear power.

COMMUNIST INFLUENCE has been stymied in Europe since the advent of the Marshall plan and even suffered setbacks in Yugoslavia, Austria, Greece and Finland. Yet Europe is, so to speak, home territory for the Russians.

The prospects of seeing the amassed political, economic and military strength of a monolithic Germany in a united Western Europe on her doorstep is unthinkable to the USSR—as it would be to us. It is unlikely therefore that there will ever be a reunified Germany as far as the USSR and her allies are concerned.

(A second article appearing next week will deal with the Western position on German re-unification.)

NEWS ANALYST

Lawrence Cameron, sophomore in mathematics from Philadelphia, is managing editor and a political analyst for La Critique, the campus literary and critical magazine. His article on German re-unification continues The Daily Collegian's new feature: interpretations of national and international events written by students and faculty members.

2 Tournaments Won By Women Debaters

The women's debate team came close to sweeping three tournaments last weekend. Men's teams from Penn State, Bucknell, Villanova and Penn were among the "victims" of the women from the Nittany Valley.

All of the debates were on the national topic: "Resolved, that labor organizations should be under the jurisdiction of anti-trust legislation."

The University's women debaters took first place at the Bucknell University Good Neighbor Tournament. Arguing the affirmative, Patricia Schmidt, sophomore in liberal arts from York, and Andrea Buscanics, junior in journalism from Belle Vernon, defeated men's teams from Bloomsburg, Bucknell and Scranton, but lost to a mixed team from Cortland College.

MAXINE FINE, junior in liberal arts from Scranton, and Roslyn Sklar, sophomore in liberal arts from Wallingford, argued the negative side and downed the Scranton men, the Kings College men, and the Penn State men. The pair lost only to Marywood College's women's team.

The University women's team also won the first place trophy at the annual Misericordia College Novice Tournament. Arguing the affirmative, Joan Duh, sophomore in elementary education from Center Valley, and Patti McGill, freshman in liberal arts from Bedford, won all their debates.

Joan Heraman, freshman in liberal arts from Lemont, and Diane Lamb, junior in journalism from Arlington, Va., arguing the trade policy in regard to the European Common Market?

Scranton but lost to a mixed team from the City College of New York.

At the Delaware Valley Tournament, held at Rutgers University South Jersey Campus, Grace Ganter, freshman in liberal arts from Bethlehem, and Nancy Free, freshman in education from Bethesda, Md., won all their debates. Arguing the affirmative, they defeated men's teams from Villanova, Penn and Ursinus.

The negative team, composed of Marsha Alpert, sophomore in education from Nyack, N.Y., and Deborah Shapiro, junior in psychology from Brooklyn, N.Y., defeated the Maryland men, a Seton Hall mixed team and tied the Duquesne men. The Penn State women and the Duquesne men had identical 5-0-1 records. Duquesne, however, won the trophy on points.

ALSO DURING the past weekend, Josephine Barger, junior in liberal arts from Curllsville, and Helen Jewells, senior in liberal arts from Tamaqua, were the delegates to the National Student Congress of Delta Sigma Rho, national forensic honorary society, at the University of Indiana.

The topic for the Congress was: "What should be the United States foreign policy in regard to the European Common Market?"

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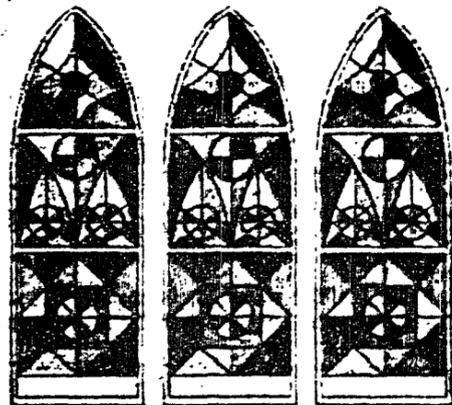
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