

Washington Digest

Old Pitfalls Stand in Way of Future Peace

Survival of German Myth, Desertion of Democratic Elements Would Weaken Postwar Security Structure.

By BAUKHAGE

News Analyst and Commentator.



WNU Service, Union Trust Building, Washington, D. C.

SAN FRANCISCO. — California sunshine is pouring down on the bay, a great white fog has begun to drape the distant, gray-green hills in the folds of its floating robe.

It has been a day of conferences and interviews where the great tragedies of little countries—Albania, Korea, Poland—and the little differences between great countries have been tossed at us, in vibrant earnest voices, in stiff and proper accents. It would be easy to lose sight of woods for the trees. But as I sit here leafing over faded notes of another such conference, I know that the tremendous goal for which these delegates have striven is so much higher, so much wider than all the little controversies that it still is just what the chambermaid in my hotel said it was.

She was gray haired. She had a son on Saipan, she told me, and when I asked her what she thought of this gathering she laid down an armful of linen and looked up. "I guess this is just about the most important thing that ever happened," she said, "trying to stop wars."

How important this meeting will prove to be depends on how well the world avoids the pitfalls which wrecked its last attempt to treat war as we treat disease; not as something that we irreverently consider as an act of God, like a tornado, but something to which mankind is exposed through ignorance and indifference and which can be prevented.

Why did the League of Nations fail? What are the pitfalls which the United Nations must avoid?

Germany Thought Armies Unbeaten

I have been talking over that Paris conference with a friend whom I met there—a quarter of a century ago. He lived with the League of Nations through its early uncertain days, on until its death of malnutrition. Together we agreed on certain fundamental mistakes made in the past which must be avoided if the result of the San Francisco conference is a success.

The object of the United Nations is the same as the object of the League of Nations: to stop aggression before it starts. Last time, efforts were directed specifically toward Germany as the one potential aggressor. Germany has been so utterly defeated that she cannot strike back for a long time but our conduct toward Germany after the last war can be related to all future attempts at aggression.

The first mistake made last time, namely, allowing the myth to grow up that the German army was not defeated, that other causes enforced capitulation, cannot be made again since the German army is now destroyed. But there is danger that another myth may grow which will encourage Nazi-fascism elsewhere.

Even if the so-called German government headed by Admiral Doenitz formally capitulated to the Allies instead of having the various generals surrender separately, the Nazis might well claim that they themselves never did surrender.

A very good legal case might be made out supporting the thesis that Doenitz was not the authorized head of the German government and that government still existed in exile. Whether Hitler and Himmler are dead makes no difference. No proof can be adduced that Doenitz is the authorized successor to Hitler. There has been no recognized revolution which could be recognized first, de facto, then de jure.

We do not know that Hitler authorized Doenitz as his successor.

We do know that he had publicly indicated certain successors. I saw and heard him do it in the Reichstag meeting in the Kroll opera house in Berlin on September 1, 1939, when he announced that he was going to the front to join the army already invading Poland.

I saw him turn from the lectern and indicate, first Herman Goering, sitting high on the praesidium as his successor, if he failed to return and second, the tall and lanky Hess sitting in the first row on the rostrum.

There has never been any other official designation of succession by the German government. When Hitler made that pronouncement Doe-

nitz played no role in the Nazi party—he was just another naval officer. Therefore it would be easy for whoever claims official fuhrership to have moved into Norway while it was still in German hands, take a long-distance submarine and find asylum and support in some country which would conceal his identity and where sufficient sympathy for Nazi-fascism existed, to carry on underground activities and foster the myth of the immortality of Nazi-dom just as the myth of the German army's invincibility was kept alive.

That is one thing that apparently is not realized. It is important. It must be watched.

Now there are a number of other pitfalls which I might mention but I won't spend too long over these faded notes with fresh breezes from the Pacific reminding me that we are living in the land of tomorrow and not yesterday.

But alas, some of the dark shadows of yesterday have stretched down the years to today.

Selfish Interests Stunt Democracy

One of the great mistakes which the peace-loving nations of the world, as they now call themselves, made the last time was that they failed to help the democratic elements in Germany against the very reactionary or national elements which made World War II possible.

At present there is no question about elements in the German government for it is under Allied military rule. That problem is some distance in the future. But here at San Francisco and wherever the executive council or the assembly of the organization planned here may meet, the same question will arise.

We have a concrete example in the question of Argentina, not too important in itself, but interesting insofar as it reveals whose selfish political and economic interests affect world affairs.

Certain countries wanted to renew normal business relations with Argentina.

Great Britain has a great interest in Argentina because of her trade and Canada because the financing of many institutions there was handled through Canadian banks.

The representatives in the Mexico City conference yielded to this pressure and when they came to San Francisco could not reverse their position. Russia looked on, chortled, and said: Democracies aren't so democratic after all if they invite a fascist government to join up with them.

This is not too important but it is an example of what must be avoided if the United Nations really champion the cause of democracy throughout the world.

But the strong hope of avoiding the pitfalls of the last time lies in the interest, the participation of the people. The people of America.

As I sit here in San Francisco and see the earnest effort of these men of all creed and color, I feel they have the will to peace.

But their voices all cry in the wilderness unless the people support them.

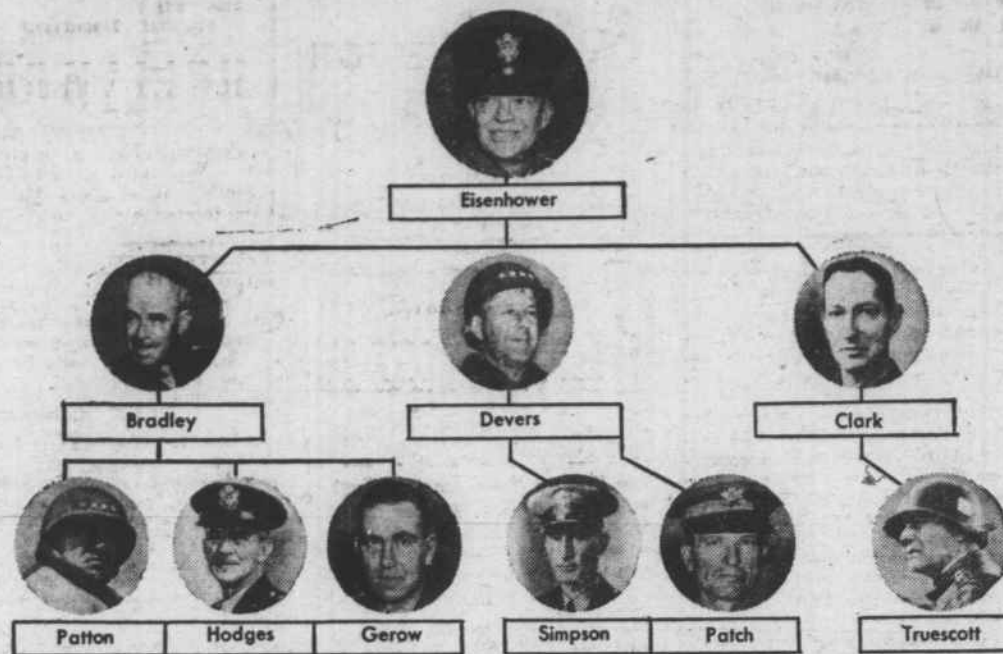
I look over these gray-green hills and think—into thine hands, the hands of the people of America.

In order to provide agricultural information to servicemen and veterans of this war who are interested in agriculture, the USDA has arranged to place kits containing samples of available information in separation centers, hospitals, libraries and vocational guidance and retraining centers of the army, navy, air forces, and the Veterans administration.

In cooperation with Washington representatives of the various branches of the armed forces and the Veterans administration, these kits will be available for review in approximately 1,000 places in the continental U. S. and overseas. Accompanying each kit will be a supply of order blanks on which the veteran or serviceman can order from the department by a simple check mark, any item or group of items he may want.

Among the materials being offered are several general publications designed to help the agriculturally inclined serviceman or veteran decide whether or not he really does want to become a farmer.

Nation's Hats Off to Hard Task Well Done



The organization of the American forces in Europe which brought about the complete collapse and unconditional surrender of the once-unbeatable German forces which set out to rule the world. To Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower, his army group commanders, Bradley, Devers and Clark, we render thanks. To General Patton, General Hodges and General Gerow, under Bradley; General Simpson and General Patch under Devers and to General Truescott, under Clark in Italy, the credit of directing the world's finest army is due. A job well done, by the finest staff ever assembled in the history of any war.

Germany's Nazi Down—Japan Soon to Follow



Left: President Harry S. Truman, officially ending the war in Europe. Gathered around him are members of his cabinet, family and officials. Right: Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower, supreme Allied commander, makes announcement of German unconditional surrender at SHAEF, France. At left is Sir Arthur Tedder, deputy supreme commander. The world's greatest war was thus brought to a successful conclusion.

Pacific G.I.s Tame and Use Pets



Dogs, goats or monkeys, regardless of nationality, the American expeditionary forces in the Pacific have tamed, adopted as pets and put to use to hunt out the Japs, locate poison gas, gun emplacements, or furnish milk to sick buddies. Thousands of rare and unusual pets will be brought into the United States when Tokyo falls.

War-Born Lessons Dropped From Air



The accelerated educational schedule developed in the wartime emergency, which put the student through a normal four-year college course in from 23 to 36 months, will be discontinued as soon as possible by most colleges, but the government will see that substitute courses are furnished to G.I.s by air mail wherever desired. Returned soldiers may still secure training desired.

Pity the S-VE-Eper



Michael Parrotta, New York sanitation department sweeper, is one man who thinks that Victory is not all it's cracked up to be. His was the job of cleaning up the paper blizzard aftermath that covered 45th street, New York City.

New Diving Record



Jack Browne, 23 years old, is shown through the porthole of the decompression chamber as he was slowly released from the peak pressure to set record of 550 feet dive.



DIPLOMACY AT SAN FRANCISCO SAN FRANCISCO. — By all odds the most skillful diplomacy game at this conference has been played by dapper, dignified Anthony Eden of Great Britain. He has managed to come out as the friend of all sides, and most important of all, the mediator between Russia and the United States.

In other words, Eden has completely reversed the previous role of President Roosevelt, who up until his death had acted as the mediator between Churchill and Stalin.

The Churchill - Stalin rivalry was not merely personal. It was historic. It was based not only on the fact that Churchill just after the last war, urged the sending of Allied troops into Russia to help the White Russian generals overthrow the embryonic Bolshevik regime, but that he flirted with the Cliveden set which in 1939 advocated war between Russia and Germany while England sat on the side lines.

This was the basis for the personal suspicion between him and Stalin. But historically, Churchill was carrying out a century-old British policy of isolating Russia. For 100 years, the country with the greatest land mass in the world, Russia, had been kept without a warm-water seaport by Britain, the country with the greatest navy in the world.

That rivalry was the reason for the Anglo-Japanese alliance, whereby the British, working through Japan, helped to stop Russia from getting Manchuria and a warm-water port on the Pacific.

That rivalry was behind Britain's sphere of influence in Persia (now Iran) to prevent Russian use of the gulf of Persia. That rivalry was also the cause of the Crimean war in which the British fleet and British troops actually landed on the same spot where Churchill, Stalin and Roosevelt later held their Yalta conference and waged a bloody battle to prevent the Czar from coming down to the Dardanelles and getting an outlet through the Mediterranean.

Finally this 100-years-old Russo-British rivalry was behind Britain's taking Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia and Finland away from Russia after the last war to block her outlet to the Baltic sea.

Roosevelt Sits in Middle. That rivalry continued during the Teheran - Yalta conferences, with Stalin and Churchill both trading against each other and Franklin Roosevelt sitting in the middle.

At Teheran the argument was over a second front through the Balkans which Churchill favored, or through France, which Stalin favored. Churchill wanted the Allied armies to get into the Balkans—Russia's sphere of influence — and thereby keep the Russians out. He didn't want Allied armies ruining factories and alienating the population of western Europe—which was to be Britain's sphere of influence.

In the end Roosevelt tipped the scales in favor of Stalin—toward a second front through France.

Once at Teheran, Churchill trying to poke a little fun at Stalin, said: "Marshal, I have noticed that whenever anyone comes into contact with you they become slightly pink." To which Stalin replied: "And Mr. Prime Minister, any good doctor will tell you that pink is the healthiest of all colors."

And Roosevelt, wanting to pour oil on the troubled waters, said: "Gentlemen, let me remind you that there is nothing more beautiful than all the colors of the rainbow."

But at the end, as Churchill bade farewell to Stalin, there was still tension between them.

"Well, goodbye, Marshal," said the prime minister, "I'll see you in Berlin."

"Yes," shot back Stalin, "I in a tank and you in a pullman car."

Stettinius Loses Out. Roosevelt was shrewd enough to continue as middle man even at Yalta, despite the fact that he was slipping physically.

He kept both Russia and Great Britain in the position of playing up to the United States.

The loss of that strategic bargaining power is the most important development of this conference. Stettinius has lost what Roosevelt had and Anthony Eden has cleverly stepped into his place.

The United States has now slipped into the position of being the chief rival and potential opponent of Russia, while Eden has maneuvered so that England sits in the middle, able to throw its weight to one side or the other.

Conference Cross Currents

Greek Foreign Minister Sophianopoulos at first was considered a British puppet but surprised everyone by voting against the British on Argentina. He sides with Russia against Argentina's admission into the San Francisco conference. . . He also helped to pass the Greek eight-hour child labor laws, later was condemned to life imprisonment by the Metaxas dictatorship under King George. . . Real expert on peace machinery is Dutch Foreign Minister Van Kliefden.

Wounded G.I. Was Going Back to Settle a Score

Scene: A military hospital. Visitor had been talking to a badly wounded Irish soldier. Afterwards he asked an orderly: "When are they sending that man home?" "He ain't going home," said the orderly. "He's going back to the front." "But he can't. He'll never be fit. Anybody can see he's far too badly hurt." "Maybe. But he thinks he knows who done it."

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Advertisement for PAZO for PILES, describing its benefits for various ailments and its availability in drugstores.

Advertisement for Black Bear flycatcher, showing the product and its effectiveness against insects.

Advertisement for Balsam of Myrrh, a household antiseptic dressing for various ailments.

Advertisement for Doan's Backache Remedy, targeting nervous tension and back pain.

Advertisement for Doan's Back Pains, emphasizing strength and energy for back pain relief.

BARBS . . . by Baukhage

One of the hardest things to get in the sun-kissed state was a glass of orange juice. They told us it was all being dehydrated and sent abroad.

Returning to San Francisco after 30 years the city looks as if it had changed more than in the previous 30 — and that included the period of reconstruction after the fire.

Accredited correspondents outnumbered delegates six to one but most of the delegates never saw a news man. And most of them couldn't have talked anyhow since the majority of them couldn't speak English. English and French were the official languages but probably Spanish was the most generally understood, judging from responses to speeches in that tongue.