

# Berlin Crisis Reveals Parallel Maneuvers

By Mary Jo Wynne

Once again Berlin has been made the center of dispute between the United States and Russia. In 1948, only a decade ago, Russia posed problems for the Western powers by trying to skut us out of Berlin.

Under the Truman Administration, Secretary of State George C. Marshall was sent to the Moscow conference of Foreign Ministers. He returned on April 26, 1947 in a pessimistic mood. Trying to persuade the Russians that the United States was working for peace, his only answer from them was their cold determination "to exploit the helpless condition of Europe to further Communism rather than co-operate with the world."

Immediately plans were made to find a method for reviving Europe. Marshall and Truman agreed on the importance of economic unity in Europe. The idea was to have Europe develop their own solutions to their economic problems, viewing them as a whole and acting co-operatively, in order for United States aid to be more effective and the strength of Europe to be better sustained.

Continuing to support this idea of unity, Under Secretary of State Dean Acheson delivered a speech at Cleveland, Mississippi, the next month stressing the idea that Europe must be dealt with as one problem. At this time the importance of his speech was not realized. He had pointed out the interrelation of food and freedom, telling of our past relief efforts—this could be called the prologue to the Marshall Plan.

On June 5, 1947, Secretary Marshall delivered a speech to a commencement audience, outlining a course of action for the United States in dealing with the European crisis. The main proposal was "that the countries of Europe agree on a co-operative plan in order to utilize whatever material assistance we could render to make the plan successful."

Invitations were sent out to all European countries, with the exception of Spain, for a conference to draw up a comprehensive recovery program. The Marshall Plan soon went into action, but not before Russia realized that the iron curtain might be lifted and that "the opportunity to communize wesern Europe by exploiting her economic miseries would be lost."

Russia began her retaliation moves. Trade and commerce were cut off between eastern and western Europe, retarding restoration of normal, prewar commerce essential to European countries. Then, to test our firmness and patience, they completely cut off all contacts between the eastern and western zones of Germany, treating the Russian zone as if it were conquered territory.

During previous conferences, such as the Berlin Agreement of June 5, 1945, the United States, Great Britain, France, and the Soviet Union have agreed to accept joint responsibility of Germany, although it would be divided among the four powers. On March 31, 1948, however, the scene changed, with a note from the Soviet Union stating that in two days U. S. personnel would be checked for identification and freight shipments, except personal baggage would be checked by the Russians when passing through their zone.

This was only the beginning. Trains were stopped at the border and turned back when the train commanders, under orders, refused to submit to being searched. Soon highways, rail and river traffic into and out of Berlin were sealed off because of "technical difficulties," said the Russians.

Action was immediately, but subtly taken. The British, French and Americans set up, for their zones, a new type of currency. Adding to the inflation of western Germany, threatening to to block their effort for economic recovery, the Russians, using the old plates of currency set up during the beginning of the occupation to print money, flooding west Germany with it. The unsoundness of the east Germany currency was exposed and all Germans preferred the good western currency, therefore it was opposed by the Russians. They now offered to call off their blockades if the Western powers would discontinue the new currency.

The main objective of Russia was to get the Western powers out of Berlin. At first they claimed the Western powers had no legal right to be in Berlin. Next they said the Western powers had had the right but forfeited it.

To counterract the blockade, an "airlift" was set up, putting every plane, available to our European command into use. The Ber-



"O WIND - IF WINTER COMES - CAN SPRING BE FAR BEHIND???"

## Around the Square

Alas and alack — Thanksgiving Vacation is over and Salemites can be seen half-heartedly plugging their way to classes with that far away expression on their faces. However, in Union Station, Washington, D. C. there was a small pre-school conference of Salemites. I was fortunate enough to attend. Some eighteen of us gathered together in the middle of the train station, passed greetings, and waited to invade "The Southerner" en masse. We were a motley crew—particularly that next morning when we arrived in Winston-Salem after a night's travel—day coach style. With drooping hair, wrinkled dresses, and smeared mascara — we hailed cabs to Salem.

Margaret MacQueen and Jerome Moore have diligently attended all classes and completed their practice teaching—so they decided it was time for a long needed rest. They departed from Salem on Friday before the Wednesday that vacation started and passed the time of day way down south, in Alabama.

Winter came while we were away, but with the long stockings, gloves, and head scarves—and down with the windows. I was a little weary of wearing the same winter cotton everyday, myself. But Rosemary Laney didn't realize winter had come when she tenderly placed a bowl of helpless goldfish outside her dorm window. The next morning she found her frozen fish "lifeless." Indeed, winter has come—hasn't it Rosemary.

For those of you who haven't seen the Christmas season around the square, open your eyes and ears. The six o'clock bell will toll Christmas Carols, Mr. Snaveley's book store takes on the air of bees' wax candles, Moravian stars, Moravian cookies and sleigh bells, Brother's House gives the candle light tea, and then there is the Orphanage Christmas Party, the Christmas dance, and the Christmas banquet. So, take your party dresses to Bright and get her to have them cleaned — because 'tis the season to be jolly . . . fa-la-lala-la."

Patty Garry and Pat Hanes were the members of the College Maintenance staff who received the Thanksgiving offerings. The college station wagon was packed with cans of food contributed by Salemites. The participation in this drive was much more gratifying than the participation in the previous U. N. I. C. E. F. drive. Patty and Pat asked that their thank you's be expressed to the entire student body.

Many of you have possibly missed Louise Adam's urgent pleas in Chapel to SELL ADS. Maybe you miss her little clock poster with the colored sections that denote the "slow progress" of ad selling. "Do you want an annual? You'd better sell ads! If you're going up town just grab an ad book and . . . "We'll miss Louise . . . the annual has reached its goal in ad sales and Marcille is minus one burden.

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# Berlin Crisis . . . .

liners had to be fed—the old capital was and is a symbol to the Germans, and if we failed here, Communism would be strengthened among the Germans. We had to show strength, but there was the risk then that Russian reaction might lead to war. "The Germans in general were more concerned than the Allies about the possibility of our leaving," said General Lucius Clay.

In the *Memories* By Harry S. Truman, which I have used here as a source, Truman says, "When we refused to be forced out of the city of Berlin, we demonstrated to the people of Europe that with their co-operation we would act, and act resolutely, when their freedom was threatened. Politically it brought the peoples of western Europe more closely to us.

The Berlin blockade was a move to test our capacity and will to resist."

# Tendrils Attends A Conscience Pricking

I was having a remarkably good night's sleep, tucked between the Ace of Spades and the highest love card in the deck, when I was rudely awakened by the tramp, tramp, tramp, of 800 tennis shoes marching with obvious purpose of destination.

"A'Ha!" I said, "Another traditional celebration: Tree Planting?, May Court?, Founder's Day?, Lunch, anyone,?"

My curiosity forced me down the table leg, into one of the shoe-lace holes, and I was carried into a room which resembled a laboratory and the Library of Congress at the same time.

On a platform sat what appeared to be several judges, dressed appropriately with headbands and shirt-tails in. The crowd marched to their assigned chairs, sat down and crossed their legs upon signal, and leaned forward to hear the Voice of Authority speak intelligently as always.

"Today, as you all know, is Annual Conscience Pricking Day, and it makes us proud and happy to see that you have realized your own inadequacy in the field and have resolved to allow us, as qualified intellectuals, to do this for you in an organized and expedient manner."

"To you who have the preposterous idea that the result of this would be better if each of you were to individually take stock, let me say that we have seen the list and have decided that in a smooth running campus life, the individual does not, indeed, cannot exist!"

"Hear! Hear!" is intoned and each member claps dutifully three times in moderation.

"But, before we get on with this organized conscience pricking, we have a few more immediate and pressing matters. Will the High Priestess record the following excommunications from the Holy Order of the Intelligencia as according to the rules set down in *Crime and Punishment*:

1. "For reading *The Iliad* in English translation instead of the original Greek, we do hereby banish . . . What?

"Excuse me, I can't read or write, you see, I date on Saturday night sometimes at the expense of my work that's due for January."

A gasp was heard from the crowd.

"Guide me, O great committee, out of my moronic state of awareness into the beauties of thine ivory tower. I'm sorry, but I'm having trouble getting up the ladder. I seem to be slipping on bits of paper. What's this: "Did you?" Did you what:

Wear your leotard today?, Drink a cup of black coffee?, Give a call down?, Make out your schedule for the next 6 years?, Smile smugly, and look blase?, Slap a maid?, Flush the john? Can it?

- 1 little, 2 little, 3 little deficiencies;
- 4 little, 5 little, 6 little conferences;
- 7 little, 8 little, 9 little committees;
- 10 little ashes lying in the dust.

Pick up your feet, please, I'd like to sweep them up.

Tendrils