

Looking at WASHINGTON

Past Experience Shows Peace By Disarmament

Twelve years ago, the United States was conferring with other nations in London in an effort to secure an agreement to limit the navies of the world.

The London Naval Conference did not succeed in easing the tension that was apparent in the world. Mr. Cordell Hull, Secretary of State at the time, reveals that, following the London Conference, the State Department had to consider when, "in the light of chaotic conditions in many areas of the globe, this nation should, to all practical intents, abandon the undertaking to preserve peace through disarmament and proceed rapidly to arm itself efficiently to be able to resist the mainly visible movements toward military conquest by Germany, Japan and Italy."

Mr. Hull reminds his readers that, for more than a decade, the tendency of the world had been towards disarmament but that in the several years preceding the 1936 conference, we had seen acts and utterances by Japan, Germany and Italy definitely revealing intentions of aggression. These countries repudiated "all disarmament undertakings and every obligation to keep the peace." There were "wild, runaway races in armaments, with these aggressor nations as the chief offenders, accompanied by loud, brazen threats of conquest."

Accordingly, Mr. Hull admits that it was "clearly manifest that peace on the basis of disarmament was next to impossible. The question that then presented itself," he declares, "was whether and to what extent there would be suitable cooperation by the law-abiding nations to curb the rapidly developing plans of military aggression."

Knowing that public opinion in this country was "militantly and almost violently against" entering any joint undertakings with other nations to keep the peace, Mr. Hull concluded that "the only alternative remaining was for the United States, while continuing to preach and practice peace, and urging like policies on all nations, especially the avowed aggressors, to take immediate notice of the aggressors' movements and arm our nation without delay to the extent adequate for our security."

U. S. Reverses Position On Two Important Issues

The United States Government has reversed its position on two important matters of international concern. The alteration in our policies came

as a surprise and, apparently, is linked to the critical international situation.

The first radical shift in the position taken by this country involved the partition of Palestine and represented a back-track from the position taken as late as last November.

As everybody remembers, the United States acted vigorously to secure the approval of the United Nations to the plan to partition Palestine. Since then, there has been considerable fighting of the gangster and terrorist element in that unhappy area, with both Jews and Arabs being guilty of what can only be termed atrocities.

The surprise shift of the United States was hardly cleared before Washington announced that the United States, Great Britain and France had proposed to the Soviet Union that the territory of Trieste be returned to the Italian government. The disposition of this city was one of the problems connected with the treaty of peace with Italy. Yugoslavia and Italy both wish to retain control of the port.

The changed position of the three nations comes about through an effort to solve an admittedly vexatious problem in connection with the special zone set up and policed by American, British and Yugoslavian troops. This has not worked satisfactorily and there have been rumors that the Yugoslavian government might move in on the free territory whenever the Anglo-American troops left.

It is also noted that the Italian people go to the polls on April 18 to determine the composition of their new government. The Communists are making a strong drive and, despite the opposition of the Catholic Church, seem likely to capture a considerable popular vote. Inasmuch as Communist Russia and Communist Yugoslavia are against Italian acquisition of Trieste, the move of the three powers puts some pressure on Italian Communists, who, it seems, must choose between Italy's interest and the present program of the Communists.

Vote-Getting Power Has Weight In 1948

All the news from Washington indicates that Congress will pass a tax reduction measure and, this being an election year, it is almost safe to predict that the expected veto of President Truman will be overridden.

For the same reason, that we are in an election year, it is practically safe to predict that Congress will pass a universal military training bill

and much doubt about the willingness of Congress to put into effect a temporary selective service act.

The test of tax reduction and military preparedness will not be the best interest of the country, in the long run, but the vote-getting power of the bills in the election in 1948. The situation illustrates again the fact that democracies cannot compete with dictator states when it comes to getting ready for an international crisis.

The Big Question Today Is Will U. S. Help Free Nations?

The trend of international affairs is gradually pushing the United States into something like a military alliance with the free nations of Western Europe.

While President Truman, in his recent message to Congress, did not openly suggest a mutual defense pact, he very plainly intimated that the United States, "by appropriate means," should "extend to the free nations the support which the situation requires."

What was the situation to which the President referred? He mentioned the effort of the five nations in Europe toward economic cooperation which has been followed by a movement toward common self-protection in the face of the growing menace to their freedom. He spoke of the determination of the free countries of Europe to protect themselves and that it "will be matched by an equal determination on our part to help them to do so."

The high officials of the United States seem to be convinced that war cannot be averted by wistful thinking or by resolutions. They incline to the belief that war can be prevented if the Soviet Union understands very clearly that it cannot continue its effort to conquer Europe without encountering, not only the resistance of the free nations of Europe, but American power as well. Those familiar with the history of Hitler's aggressions will recall that upon separate occasions the German leader took advance steps in the way of aggression but that, in these instances, he had prepared a retreat in the event that his advance met with opposition. Many observers have expressed the thought that neither the Kaiser nor Adolf Hitler would have plunged into war if they had known, before the conflict began, that the United States would eventually throw its great power into the battle.

The Price Of Peace

Nothing in the recent message of President Truman expresses the truth more forcibly than this:

"We must be prepared to pay the price of peace or assuredly we shall pay the price of war."

Now, what is the price of peace? Is it the repeated and abject surrender of one's rights in order to appease a possible enemy? Certainly, the history of the world in the present century demonstrates rather conclusively that this is not the price of peace.

One of the prices of peace is a willingness on the part of brave people to defend their just rights. Realization of this determination on the part of possible enemies will do more to deter them than any other factor. Once a nation begins the process of surrender, it loses the respect of those with force and becomes the despised victim of their schemes.

The firm resolution to defend one's rights may not prevent all warfare, especially where democratic peoples allow totalitarian regimes to possess overwhelming armaments and military power. The readiness of a

people to fight, however, in defense that other nations must have for this of their liberties and their security, country if we expect to have our goes far toward creating the respect rights properly recognized. The President pointed out that in the past the United States had failed (Concluded on Page Six)



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