

French delegation said it had listened to Mr. Vishinsky's proposals "with satisfaction."

But behind the scenes the U.S. and British top-flight politicians were already thinking of new methods of avoiding agreement with the Russians. "Britain has no intention of accepting any delays," reported Nora Beloff in the *Observer*. "Nevertheless the British Minister of State has no intention of running against the formidable tide of optimism which has swept over the United Nations since Mr. Vishinsky's speech renouncing the basic Soviet principles of disarmament which for so many years prevented any constructive negotiations."

On the continent of Europe itself, the Vishinsky-Molotov proposals naturally had far wider repercussions.

Mr. Jules Moch, former French Minister of Defence and now French representative on the Disarmament Commission, cabled the French Premier Mendes-France urging him to insert a suspensive clause in the London agreement so that an opportunity might be provided to explore the Russian offer, which had brought about a "sensational change" in the world situation.

Mr. Moch said that if his advice were ignored, he would do everything in his power to secure the rejection of the London agreement in the French Assembly.

As it happened, Mendes-France was able to bull-doze the London agreement through the French Assembly despite Mr. Moch; but only by undertaking to use the period before German rearmament came into force to explore the possibilities of peaceful reunification of Germany according to the Vishinsky-Molotov plan.

Mendes-France said he would never have accepted the London agreement if there were any danger of its "straining our relations" with the Soviet Union. He added:

"You know, and the Soviet Union knows well, that time is needed, two or three years without doubt, for the London decision to result in arms for Germany. It is not too optimistic to hope that during this period negotiations (with Russia) will have (ended) in disarmament."

Mendes-France is clever, perhaps too clever, at playing off one group against another. He has won provisional endorsement for his policy from a reluctant Assembly but, as the Paris correspondent of the *New Statesman and*

Nation reported after the debate: "The feeling in the Assembly against German rearmament in any form is strong; indeed, the principal objection raised during the debate — the existence of an independent German General Staff — is shared by a clear majority of the Assembly . . . It is quite clear that to get the final texts (of the agreements on German rearmament) through the Assembly will take a great deal of hard work."

GERMANS UNWILLING

Strangely enough, the most formidable opposition to the London agreement has come from inside West Germany itself.

The Social Democrats, leading opposition party in the Bundestag, pressed for negotiations with the Soviet Union. Party leader Ollenbauer calling Mr. Molotov's offer a "real change", said: "We Social Democrats believe that the federal republic should not accept any new obligations in connection with Western defence before new serious attempts are made by negotiations with the Soviet Union to solve the question of German reunification on the basis of free elections."

Even Dr. Dehler, leader of the Free Democrats, partners in the Adenauer coalition, embarrassed the Chancellor by calling for immediate negotiations with the Soviet Union on the basis of Mr. Molotov's offer. Commented the *Observer's* Sebastian Haffner: "This is the sharpest publish clash on fundamental questions that has yet occurred."

On October 9 the West German Trade Union Congress, representing 6 million workers, passed a resolution at Frankfurt rejecting a West German military contribution to European defence "as long as all possibilities of negotiations for international reconciliation are not exhausted and the union of Germany is not restored." Only four votes were cast against the resolution. All the speakers stressed they were neither Communists nor pacifists, but just anti-Nazi.

At the end of September, the 670,000 members of the trade union youth groups had voted unanimously against an armed contribution of any kind.

Clearly the German people, as opposed to their rulers and the old Nazi gang hoping to stage a come-back, want unity and peace, not rearmament and war. Adenauer may get his Bundestag majority, but it looks like he will also get very reluctant soldiers when the time comes for them to get into uniform.

BANTU BLACKOUT

In ancient times, it was a practice of certain panderers to the despotic rulers of the East to rear children in pots. The pots distorted and cramped their bodies into weird shapes. They were then sold to the wealthy as jesters and objects of amusement.

In this day and age, notwithstanding the cruel practices of Hitler Germany, there is no country in the world where such practice would not be treated as a crime — a crime against humanity.

The Bantu Education Act does not propose to rear children in pots to distort their bodies. Nothing as crude as that. Nor does it intend that they should be sold as jesters and objects of amusement. It proposes, instead, to rear them in pots which will distort, cramp and limit their mental development, so that they will be docile, uncomplaining servants of the whites. And this, it is claimed, is being done in the sacred cause of preserving "white civilisation" — and on behalf of every white-skinned South African.

The South African Congress of Democrats gives the lie to this claim, in its latest, hard-hitting pamphlet about Bantu Education — "Educating for Ignorance." The pamphlet pulls no punches. It strips Bantu Education bare of all the airy philosophising, and reveals its crude, mediaeval bones by extensive direct quotations from the Minister of Native Affairs, Dr. Verwoerd. It explains what the Act is; what it aims to do; what effect it will have on both pupil and parent, teacher and nation. There is a foreword by Father Trevor Huddleston C.R.

It is a pamphlet you must not be without. And one you should pass on to every friend you have who wants to know what is happening in his own land, to his fellow men.

EDUCATING FOR IGNORANCE is obtainable from the S.A. Congress of Democrats, P.O. Box 4088, Johannesburg. Price 3d. per copy, post free.

LABOUR SAYS "NO!"

TREMENDOUS opposition has been aroused at the proposal to permit Western Germany to re-arm her military machine and to once again train and equip a huge military organisation. With the memories of World War II still very bitter and very evident in many parts of the world, especially in those countries which suffered from the Nazi onslaught, opposition to German re-armament has reached mass proportions.

The lead in favour of Germany being re-armed is being taken by the United States of America, which has in all facets of its policy, both openly and secretly, encouraged the most evil and most reactionary circles in Germany, and bolstered up with solid injections of dollars the tottering remnants of the Nazi regime. Thus, the decisions of the Potsdam agreement signed by the big powers which lead the coalition that defeated Nazi Germany, and included clauses such as the break-down of German cartels, like the Krupp Armament works, the public ownership of the most important industries formerly controlled by Nazis, the extermination of all vestiges of Nazism from German life, and the eventual unification of Germany on democratic lines, all these good decisions have been jettisoned as a result of American pressure, which in turn has influenced official policy in Great Britain to support this reactionary line as well.

SMOKE SCREEN

Elaborate political steps accompanied these moves to give the world the idea that all these steps were being taken to counter so-called threats from the Soviet Union and from "communism" typically in the same strain that Hitler & Co., carried on their nefarious work which lead to the disasters that preceded World War II and the horrible War itself. Thus we have had such political moves as the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) and the European Defence Community (EDC) all designed to give people the false impression of threats from the East, whilst plans were rapidly being carried to fruition to maintain huge armies and build up huge armament industries including the revival of the Krupp organisation in Germany.

This policy has been carried out in the face of fierce opposition in many parts of Europe, particularly in France and in Italy, as well as in Western Ger-

many itself — opposition which has assumed mass proportions, and which has led even to Governments being compelled to reject the more blatant plans of German re-armament so that public support would not be completely destroyed in their nefarious schemes.

LABOUR'S NO!

How about opposition in Great Britain itself, which also suffered at the hand of the Nazi war machine, though not so severely as the European continent? Many people are puzzled by the fact that the British Labour Party and the Trade Union Congress, the two most influential labour organisations in that country have officially agreed to German re-armament, which is being openly pushed by the Conservative Government

VETERAN TRADE UNIONIST

I. WOLFSON

REVIEWS TWO BRITISH CONFERENCES

at present in office. On the face of it, it would appear that all sections of the British people, Tory as well as labour, have given their blessing to this reactionary policy of re-arming the greatest threat to world peace the world has ever known — a reactionary anti-democratic Germany. Yet this is not really the case as can be briefly elicited from the following facts.

Widespread opposition to German re-armament has been voiced and demanded by hundreds of Labour Party branches and Trade Union branches and National organisations in Great Britain. Some of the most influential unions in Britain, such as the Amalgamated Engineering Union, and many others, have officially declared their opposition to the rearming of Germany. The Co-operative Congress representing many millions of co-operators in Britain went on record by an overwhelming majority in spite of official opposition from the top executives, against German re-armament.

STAGE MANAGING

In the Labour Party, the left-wing led by Aneurin Bevan has won the support of the rank and file of the Labour Party against rearming the Germans. Yet

at both congresses of the Trade Union Congress and the Labour Party official votes have been recorded in favour of German re-armament. At both congresses the favourable vote was achieved by bringing into operation the "big guns" that is the official leadership such as Attlee and Morrison in the Labour Party and Deakin and Tewson in the T.U.C. By itself even this manoeuvre would have failed were it not for the fact that owing to the "Card-vote" structure of these Congresses, bloc votes of millions of trade unionists can be exercised by a few individuals, and outvote the views of the rank and file. This is exactly what did take place. For instance Mr. A. Deakin as spokesman of the most powerful British Trade Union, the Transport and General Workers' Union with a million strong membership was able to cast his vote in favour of German re-armament and thus swing the conference along reactionary tracks. What real influence Mr. Deakin can exercise when it comes to a show-down has been exemplified in the recent Dockers' Strike in England when, despite his denunciations and his attacks on the leaders of the strike, the Dockers remained out, without official Trade Union support, and won a great victory. By such means have the leadership been able — for the time being — with narrow majorities to give a public declaration that the Labour Party and the T.U.C. in Britain support German re-armament.

Yet in Britain there is a mass movement in the Labour Party branches and Trade Unions, as well as in the British Peace Movement against German re-armament. Millions of people in Britain know that with the development of nuclear weapons, Britain is no longer an unsinkable and unapproachable island base, but merely one of the first "expendable" targets in the American war plans for letting hell loose when the mad dogs of war get the upper hand, and War once more faces the world. It is with this realisation in their minds, coupled with their experience and knowledge of the Nazi war machine, that millions in Britain will yet make their voices heard more strongly still, so that they will sweep aside all such manoeuvres as *card votes* and call upon the British Government to oppose German re-armament and to unite with all other powers in a world-wide movement for peace and for the eventual abolition of war and all that it entails.

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