

Early Attack By Russia Doubted

West Germans Must Rearm to Help Defense Against Reds, Leaders Say

FRANKFURT, Germany, Jan. 14 (AP).—Three former German generals and a former admiral agreed Sunday that West Germany should rearm to help defend Western Europe.

All predicted Russia probably will not attack Western Europe in the near future because she is chiefly interested at present in expanding her influence in Asia—though they did not discount completely the possibility that she might be provoked by German rearmament into making a premature move.

They disagreed as to what con-

ditions West Germany should demand as its price for rearming.

These opinions were expressed in separate interviews by former Generals Hasso Eckhardt von Mantueffel, Guenther Blumentritt, and Bodo Zimmerman and by former Admiral Gottfried Hansen.

They were picked at random from a list of Germany's former military leaders and asked a series of questions about European defense.

Manteuffel, one of Germany's top tank experts, was commander of Hitler's 5th Panzer Army and participated in the Battle of the Bulge. Blumentritt was Field Marshal Gerd von Rundstedt's chief of staff on the Western Front and was acquitted of war crimes charges.

'Germany Must Help.'

Zimmerman was a lieutenant general and operations officer on the Western Front and was convicted of Nazi Party affiliation. Hansen, after retiring from active duty as an admiral, was liaison officer between the Germany Navy and Air Force during the war.

Blumentritt was the strongest advocate of German rearmament. "Germany must help," he said flatly. "She must fight to avoid annihilation by bolshevism. She must fight to regain the confidence of the Western World to which she belongs. Fighting is the only way that Germany can gain the support of the Western Allies in re-establishing her eastern frontier (regaining areas now occupied by Poland)."

"In case of war there can be no neutral country of 48,000,000 people between the fighting powers," he added, scoffing at Germans who think they should try to remain neutral.

Blumentritt urged that Germany's troops be received by the western powers on a basis of equality but warned that no time should be lost in quibbling over conditions.

"We already have lost so much time that at present we could not stop the Russians," he said. "As far as I can see we will not be able to do so before 1953."

Hansen said: "West Germany should be rearmed, but not under present terms."

He said Germany should have a complete German army, without limitation on the size or nature of its units.

He also insisted that first "the honor of the German soldier must be restored" by the release of all "innocent so-called war criminals, or at least a review of their cases by a neutral court—not a court of victors."

All four believe that Western Europe has yet a year or more to prepare while Russia is occupied in the Far East.

"I predict there will be no Russian attack on Western Europe in 1951 or 1952," said Blumentritt. "Western Europe in 1951, at least, is more or less a sideline for the Kremlin. The Russians want to pick this apple later."

Hansen expects "the Russians will try to continue their cold war with fifth column work and political maneuvering if they are not provoked by West German rearmament without adequate Allied backing."

"I don't expect the Soviet to start a hot war," said Manteuffel. "In the cold war since 1945 the Soviets have gained more than in any previous war and without sacrifices. The Russians will make every effort to intensify the cold war and to invent new methods for it."

Respect Soviet Army.

Zimmerman warned the West against being frightened out of necessary defense measures by the possibility such measures would provoke Russia.

"Fear is a main weapon of the Soviets," he declared.

The generals, all of whom had a chance to see the Russian army in action in the last war, were unanimous in expressing respect for the fighting power of the Soviet Union.

Zimmerman estimated Russia could mobilize 20,000,000 fighting men. Blumentritt praised the

toughness and fighting spirit of the Russian soldier and the quality of the Russian tanks.

"A 'pure' defense will be futile," he declared. "The defense of Europe can only be conducted in an offensive war."

He agreed with the theory of former Gen. Heinz Guderian in a recent book that trying to defend along river lines is useless.

In dealing with Russia, he said, "we must always act according to the growth of our strength—moderate in 1951, we can go a little farther in 1952, and 1953 we can afford to be firm and sharp."

Gen. Ike Is Top Man To Get Arms Aid Voted

WASHINGTON, Jan. 14 (AP).—Administration officials are counting heavily on General Eisenhower to help get the European arms aid program through Congress.

Eisenhower, named to command a new international army in western Europe, is now studying defense problems there. Officials say he unquestionably will report to Congress on his return.

President Truman will propose to Congress Monday the appropriation of new billions for foreign military assistance, centering in Europe. This will press toward a climax some of the main issues posed by former President Hoover and Senator Taft in their criticisms of the administration's aid-Europe policy.

The two key questions opened up by this discussion are:

(1) Can an adequate defense against Russia be established in Europe by the collective efforts of the North Atlantic treaty powers?

(2) Should the United States continue supplying its European allies with arms and funds and should it send several more divisions to Western Europe as President Truman plans?

Quotation Is Cited.

In testifying on these and related questions Eisenhower, administration officials point out, will speak as a professional military man who was not associated with the early stages of work on the European defense system and who therefore has an independent evaluation to offer Congress.

That Eisenhower will support the undertaking wholeheartedly appears to be beyond question. This belief is based on his public statements since his arrival in Europe a week ago and on official reports which have come back to Washington from members of his party.

Official reports to the government describe Eisenhower's tour as a success. They say government leaders of the Atlantic Treaty nations have assured him that an effective defense force can be established, have told him that they realize the start thus far planned is inadequate and have promised to do more.

What Will Europe Do?

In determining whether American aid to Europe has a reasonable chance of success in achieving the purpose of keeping the West out of Russia's hands, members of Congress have made clear the first thing they want to know is whether the European countries will do their part. Preliminary indications are that the administration's answer, with support from Eisenhower, will be: The European nations will do their part in the long run but, initially they need special help and encouragement from the United States.

Another point of concern in Congress is whether there is time for the West to rearm before Russia strikes. The question of time is of great importance for this reason: If the Russians should force a war before the Western Nations establish their defenses then American troops put into Europe might be lost and America's total security weakened.

Official Washington estimates of Russia's intentions tend to vary

MOSCOW WARY OF W. GERMANY

MOSCOW, Jan. 14 (AP).—Pravda declared Sunday that General Eisenhower has a free hand in the formation of European armed forces and asserted there was "no doubt" he would permit the establishment of a German general staff and the raising of German army units regardless of present directives.

The Communist Party newspaper editorial said there could be no doubt that West German armed forces have a primary role in American plans.

Another Pravda article said: "In restoring rearmament militarism in Western Germany the American aggressors are conducting a dangerous game with fire. The flame of wrath is burning in the popular masses of Western Europe and grief be to the provokers of war when it bursts out in the open."

Eisenhower To Be Shown British Might

LONDON, Jan. 14 (AP).—Britain is ready to display to General Eisenhower probably more fighting strength than all the other Atlantic Pact countries he has visited so far in his tour of Western Europe.

An outline of what Britain has on hand and what it plans in armament increases was given correspondents by the Defense Ministry Sunday on the eve of Eisenhower's talks with British defense officials.

It showed that, compared with what he has found during the tour to date of mostly "second team countries," British forces are big stuff.

Although Britain has only seven and a half fighting divisions in being, it plans to have at least 10 by the end of the year.

Since the war, the British have trained 1,000,000 men who now are either in the regular army or in the "Territorials," roughly equivalent to the American National Guard. In all three regular services, army, navy and air force, there are about 800,000 men in uniform.

Industrial Strength.

But the thing that makes Britain more impressive than Belgium, the Netherlands, Denmark or Sweden is her industrial power.

At present, half a million men are engaged in the armament industries, and this figure is to be increased to 750,000 by spring.

Defense Ministry sources hesitated to release exact figures about what is contemplated for increasing production, but they said output of some weapon categories would be doubled.

A plan for speedup has been completed by the chiefs of the three defense branches. When it has been approved it will be passed to the Finance Ministry. There it will be amended if necessary, depending on whether the finance authorities believe the money can be raised.

This defense plan will be outlined to Eisenhower Monday during an all-day conference with Defense Minister Emanuel Shinwell and the three service chiefs.

In the event of conflict "right now," Britain would have another reserve of trained men, approximately 4,000,000 who had training or actual battle experience in the last war.

Britain Most Powerful.

The numbers of men trained since the war and those with war experience make Britain many times more powerful than any of the rest of the Atlantic powers other than America.

Moreover, the army, now with more than 375,000 men in the regular ranks, has asked for 522,000 in the new plan; the RAF now has more than 198,000 and asks 243,000. No figure for navy demands was given Sunday.

Other European countries have promised these forces:

France, three divisions of new troops during the coming year; Belgium, The Netherlands, Denmark and Sweden, not more than half a division or a single division each.

As at some other stops on Eisenhower's tour, Communists demonstrated here. About 300 started marching to the American embassy, but they were persuaded by police to stop at Trafalgar Square and send a delegation with letters and petitions to be handed over. As usual, the documents said, "Go home, Eisenhower."

General strikes in Rome, Florence and Naples to greet Eisenhower in Italy were announced Sunday by the Communist Party paper L'Unita in Rome.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 14 (AP).—Harold E. Stassen predicted Sunday that 35 of the 47 Republican senators will support General Eisenhower in his recommendations after his current study of the Allied defenses he heads as North Atlantic commander.

The Republican leader, now president of the University of Pennsylvania, expressed belief Eisenhower will advocate building up a European army.

GARGLE

Crockett Youth Killed As Jeep Hits Bridge

CROCKETT, Jan. 14 (AP).—Samuel Wallace Stewart, 23, of Crockett, was killed early Sunday when his jeep struck a bridge guard rail during a heavy rain.

Stewart's body was thrown clear of the wreckage and he was not found until about 45 minutes after the mishap, which occurred on the Crockett-Palestine highway. His death was the first traffic fatality in Houston County this year.

Stewart was the son of Mrs. Jewell Stewart, pastor of the Crockett Church of the Nazarene.

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