

# RUSSIA AND GERMANY

I'D like to say something about the Russian decision to end the occupation of East Germany technically. Dr. Adenauer hasn't been deceived by the Russian gesture towards East Germany. It's only a gesture, because there's not much difference between being a country in Russian occupation and being a Russian satellite. There's certainly no more freedom. But unfortunately Dr. Adenauer and the West Germans aren't the only people concerned. What Russia is really trying to do is to give some appearance of realism to the proposition she put forward at the last Four Power talks, for a 50-year security pact for Europe in which West Europe would find security in a Russian pledge and not in armed strength. That doesn't look a very good proposal to us in New Zealand, but we're not Europeans, and to a good many Europeans the offer's got its attractions. For example, the idea of an understanding between France and Russia has always had French friends who aren't Communists. It represents a policy that's more than half a century old and it's a pretty good reply to the French fear

## Extracts from recent commentaries on the international news, broadcast from the Main National Stations of the NZBS

of a rearmed and reinvigorated Germany. That's really the core of this problem. Both Russia and France are afraid of the same thing—a Germany which has arisen again and which threatens to dominate Europe . . .

The idea behind the Russian gesture is to show that Russia really wants a united Germany and is prepared to help Germany towards unity. And, of course, Russia really does want a united Germany and is prepared to help Germany towards unity—on Russian terms. Those terms are the abandonment of the European Defence Community, commonly called EDC, and of the other defensive arrangements made under the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation, commonly known as NATO. You've just heard what urgency Britain and America attach to these arrangements being concluded. That means the abandonment of Europe by Britain and America. In effect, that's the price Russia proposes

to charge for her 50 years security pact. To us, it looks an exorbitant price. After all, the one new ingredient in the situation in Europe is the British and American guarantee of the security of the West of Europe. If there had been a guarantee like this in 1914 or 1939 we shouldn't have had two world wars. The odds against Germany would have been too big. To us, it seems almost unbelievable that anyone should weigh the Russian proposition for a moment against the advantages of EDC or NATO, especially since the British and American guarantee is the result of a radical change in American policy which no one would have believed possible even a few years ago. But I'm afraid there's an inclination to weigh one against the other, all because of this persistent fear of Germany.

I can't believe, and I don't suppose many other people do believe, that in the end Russia will get very far, but she'll certainly try very hard and keep on trying . . . If they'd put the same idea forward towards the end of the war when everybody believed in their good faith, and America was offering a 40-year guarantee of German demilitarisation, the idea of peace through a series of collective treaties might have been accepted . . . It certainly won't be welcomed by Britain and America today . . . But it might help to hold

up the defensive arrangements. And that's probably what the Russians hope it will do.

—R. M. HUTTON-POTTS,  
March 27, 1954.

[N stating America's determination to correct the present position in Indo-China, Mr. Dulles confirmed what many people already knew—that is, that America is very heavily committed in the Indo-China war; and also what some people already suspected—that she is

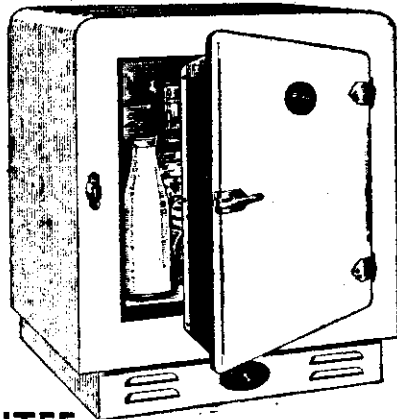
## THE INDO-CHINA WAR

prepared to engage in still heavier commitments if the necessity arises. The Indo-China war has now been going on for more than seven years. The French people are heartily sick of it—and so is the French Government. It started as an obscure colonial dispute. Not many people knew much about it, and those who did know hardly cared. The Vietminh forces were regarded merely as a band of rebels challenging the French system of colonial government, and striving for a say in the running of their own affairs. But in seven years this dispute has come into world focus as a major war . . .

Outsiders are already involved, and in a big way. Several nations are helping the French. We in New Zealand have made our contributions . . . But by far the greatest contributor to the Indo-China affair is the United States—

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