

so great, in fact, that according to reliable figures published this week America at the present time is actually bearing the major cost of the whole campaign...

Why did Mr. Dulles step in at this particular time? Well, there are two reasons. One is that things have been going very badly for the French lately, and some practical outside help is urgently needed if they are to hold their own and carry on... We know that the obvious purpose of the recent all-out Communist attacks at this time is to fashion French opinion towards a compromise peace...

The other reason for Mr. Dulles choosing this particular moment to speak is perhaps more diplomatic than military. World problems are to be discussed at Geneva this month, and the Indo-China affair is certain to be used as a bargaining factor in these talks. Russia will see to that. We know that Russia could help to bring the Indo-China war to an end if she wished—simply by withdrawing her own support, and by pressing Communist China to do the same. But Russia has her price for any help she is prepared to give. She wants two things—recognition for Communist China as one of the world's Big Five, with equality alongside Britain, France and the United States; and she also wants France to reject the plan for a European Defence Community...

The French are in a dilemma about the whole thing. They want to finish the Indo-China war and bring their soldiers home. A large section of them also want the European army scheme to go through. But they fear that EDC will plant a re-armed Germany once more at their side door...

We in New Zealand are of course vitally interested in these promises and predictions. We have a pact of friendship and security with our Pacific neighbours, Australia and the United States—that is, the Anzus Pact—and it must now occur to many New Zealanders to ask just what Mr. Dulles means when he speaks of "united action" among the free nations of the world in checking the advance of Communism in South-East Asia... Any suggested expansion of the Anzus Pact into an all-Pacific agreement, with wider implications and obligations, would almost certainly be regarded in New Zealand with studied caution—if not with grave concern. We in New Zealand prefer to believe, and indeed to hope, that for the moment this American policy of non-appeasement in South-East Asia is designed to carry us no further than the meeting at Geneva later this month.

—L. J. CRONIN,
April 3, 1954.

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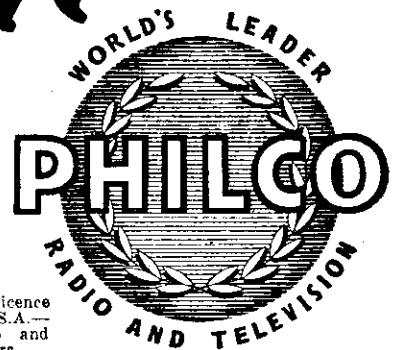
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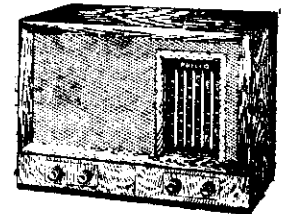


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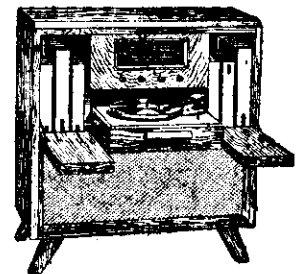
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