

Bonn Rebuffs U.S. On Using Troops In Brushfire Wars

Post 8/11/64 By Carl Hartman

BONN, (AP)—West Germans are resisting American and British proposals that some of their 400,000-man armed forces be used to help control brushfire wars outside Europe.

The prevailing West German attitude, as expressed by one official: "Military adventures outside our own borders have characterized two disastrous world wars. People still remember and resent that all over the world. So please leave us out."

The British and American attitude, as expressed by a diplomat: "Some day the West German government will have to start acting as if it really believes that it has had some success in overcoming its country's unhappy past."

2 Officials Speak Out

The comments were made anonymously, since the officials concerned want to keep the disagreement under wraps. Two leading Americans may have been hinting at it in recent speeches, though.

Speaking of Viet-Nam, Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy said in Heidelberg: "If we do not make good on our words there, what makes you think that our words would be good anywhere else? If we pull out of Viet-Nam, what makes you think we would stay in Berlin or Germany?"

Ambassador George C. McGhee pointed out that the United States did not ask West Germany for fighting men in Viet-Nam. Then he added:

"Freedom is, however, indivisible. What happens in the Mekong valley can have an important bearing on what happens in Berlin."

The United States keeps almost 250,000 men in West Germany and Berlin. Britain has nearly 60,000.

No Enthusiasm Shown

The possibility of West German participation in a peacekeeping force arose when the conflict flared up in Cyprus last winter. Since Greece and Turkey belong to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, it was hoped that the trouble could be settled within NATO.

Many British and American officials hoped that West Germany, also a member of NATO, would share some of the military job.

Diplomats say the first reactions from Chancellor Erhard and Foreign Minister Gerhard Schroeder were favorable. West German newspapers soon reported widespread opposition. The whole idea went up in smoke

when both Cypriot President Makarios and French President de Gaulle vetoed a NATO settlement on Cyprus. By that time it had become pretty clear that the West Germans were not enthusiastic.

In May, the United States appealed to about 25 of its friends for help in Viet-Nam. President Johnson said he would like to see other flags represented there. The Germans were asked to send a military hospital. It was soon made clear in Bonn that there was no question of sending anyone in military uniform.

Gives Aid to Africans

One way West Germany is trying to meet the challenge forces of six new African countries. The cost is covered in an item of \$30 million for "equipment aid" in the 1964 budget.

Pilots and sailors are being trained in West Germany for Madagascar and police units for Somalia. Tanganyika-Zanzibar, Sudan, Guinea and Nigeria also have agreements.

Foreign critics say the Bonn government tends to see this type of aid, like other contributions to undeveloped countries, as a way of keeping the recipients from recognizing the Communist government of Walter Ulbricht in East Germany. They complain that West German officials fail to see the world picture or to recognize that their country's wealth and influence give it world-wide obligations.