

Bundy Asks Oder-Neisse Acceptance

By Chalmers M. Roberts
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Former White House assistant McGeorge Bundy yesterday advised West Germany to state clearly that it will accept the present Polish-German boundary when there is a European peace settlement. That was the highlight of the urbane and peppery Ford Foundation President's testimony as a private citizen at the opening day of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee's "education" hearings on NATO and the Atlantic Alliance.

Bundy's prepared remarks abounded with polished phrases and his answers to questions by 11 Senators were models of restrained respect. After his appearance at the hearing, Bundy lunched with President Johnson and two White House aides, Walt W. Rostow and Robert Kintner.

His basic theme was that "NATO is not all of what we care about in Europe but nothing that we care about is possible without NATO." Much of his testimony and the questioning concerned a possible settlement of the East-West conflict in Europe which he called "the object of policy."

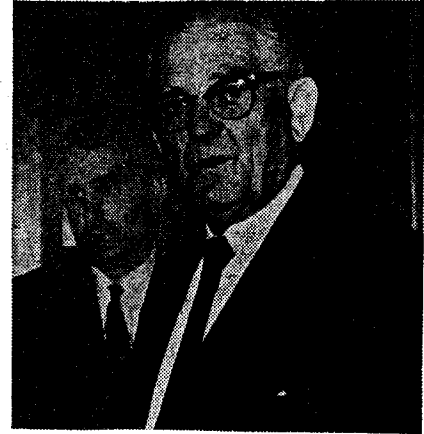
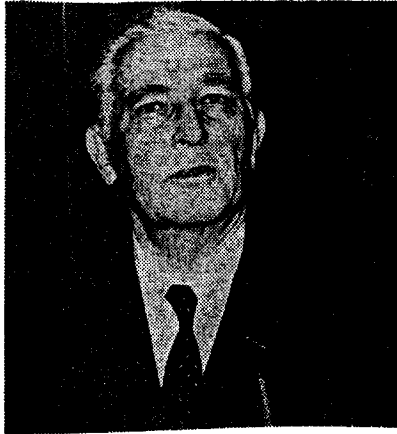
It was in this frame that he suggested that the Germans accept in advance the Oder-Neisse line, arguing that "the withholding of this recogni-

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BACKS NATO—Sen. J. William Fulbright (D-Ark.), left, chats with former White House Adviser McGeorge Bundy prior to

an inquiry by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee into the status of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

tion gives us no bargaining advantage and only helps the hand of those in the East who gain from fear of Germany."

Bundy said Germany, "the second power of the alliance," was "well and wisely—and permanently—out of the national nuclear business."

Out of Date

He also stated that the much contested multilateral nuclear force (MLF) was "now quite clearly out of date," adding that "I am confident that it will be possible for us to give a formal assurance on this point whenever the Soviet Government is really ready for a treaty of effective nonproliferation."

But in reply to Sen. Joseph C. Clark (D-Pa.) he indicated doubt that the treaty was being held up only by the MLF issue. The Soviets, he said, also think they have an interest in dividing the Western alliance.

On the matter of American forces in Europe, Bundy stressed in his prepared remarks the need for "the continued presence of major American fighting forces," adding that "the precise numbers are unimportant and the use of some of them as a strategic reserve when the European scene is quiet is simple good sense."

Warns Against Vacuum

Later he told Sen. Clairborne Pell (D-R.I.) that he could see some good "up to a point in (terms of) stability and mutual confidence" in mutual cuts in NATO and Warsaw Pact forces. But he warned against creating a vacuum in Central Europe and he opposed unilateral cuts.

Bundy suggested that West German opinion is ahead of its government in a readiness "for action based on confidence" as indicated by the proposed debates with East Germany and the suggestions of Rainer Barzel, the Bonn parliamentary leader.

The former aide to Presidents Johnson and Kennedy made a point of stating that "there is no prospect of an early end to the 20-year division of Europe. Neither is the current danger great. We have a time which we can use to get ourselves in order for the day when larger movement will be possible."

Meantime, it "would be an act of incredible imprudence to tempt fortune" by dismantling the West's defenses. But every effort should be made, he added, to increase economic, cultural and political exchanges with the East.

Bundy advised Americans against choosing up sides "in a sham battle over false issues" with France whose foreign policy he termed "disappointing in its manners, costly in its pride, wasteful in its lost opportunities, irrelevant in much of its dramatics and enduring in its fundamentals."

Calls Trip Proper

But Bundy commented that Gen. de Gaulle's current Moscow visit was "entirely proper" and he labeled as "sheer fantasy" the idea that he might make a deal with the Soviet Union. That, he added, is "as far beyond French power as it is contrary to French intentions."

He said that despite many fears, France has not unleashed a new spirit of nationalism in Europe and that

de Gaulle's attitude on Vietnam, while not helpful, was "understandable and marginal." France after de Gaulle, he suggested, would be much easier to work with.

His main complaint against de Gaulle was the General's

withdrawal from the integrated NATO command, "the principal Western instrument for effective control of crisis in Europe."

NATO, he said, can operate without France although that would require the use of nu-

clear weapons in an earlier stage of conflict than otherwise would be the case. The strength of the alliance, said Bundy, is indispensable, either against a new Soviet threat or as a basis for new negotiations with the Communists.