

11/16 By Anarole Shub
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A Senate debate on reducing the number of U.S. troops in Europe moved a step closer yesterday.

Majority Leader Mike Mansfield (D-Mont.), author of a resolution urging a "substantial reduction" from the traditional six U.S. divisions in Europe, disclosed that he would call the resolution up for debate "late this month or early in October." The resolution has now been cosponsored by 25 other Senators, including 13 whose support Mansfield announced in a Senate speech yesterday.

The debate is expected to take place after the Sept. 26-27 visit of West German Chancellor Erhard, whose government has resisted sharp reductions in allied troop strength.

High U.S. officials, notably Defense Secretary Robert S. McNamara in a speech last May, have also opposed a cut-down to one or two divisions, as urged by some sponsors of the Mansfield resolution.

Replacements Planned

Some 40,000 of the original 250,000 U.S. troops in Germany have been withdrawn in the past year, but the Pentagon has insisted that 15,000 will be replaced by the end of the year.

In his Senate speech yesterday, Mansfield sharply attacked the "U.S. officials" who criticized his resolution Thursday without permitting their names to be used. The officials told newsmen that substantial "troop" reductions would invite Soviet "probes."

Mansfield argued yesterday that there had been Soviet probes even with six U.S. divisions in Europe, and that they were always possible whether or not there were cuts in the force.

Sees Other Possibilities

"There are any number of other dire possibilities in Europe, which might grow out of U.S. cuts," he said with apparent irony. "The Albanians may be emboldened to move against the Yugoslavs or the Greeks. The Austrians may decide to retake the Tyrol from Italy. The East Germans may probe against the West Ger-

mans or the West Germans may probe against the East Germans. The catalogue of the dire consequences which might flow from any move with respect to Europe can be as endless as the imagination of the cataloguer. It is always possible to find not one but a dozen reasons for inertia, for doing nothing . . ."

Mansfield's sharpest criticism was directed at the tactics of anonymity practiced by the "U.S. officials." He said:

"Either these 'United States officials' speak for this Government or they do not. If they are speaking in accord with the policy of the President of the United States, they ought to have no compunctions about identifying themselves. . ."

Mansfield said later he did not know the identity of the 'U.S. officials,' and his targets once again refused to let names be named.

The 13 new co-sponsors of the Mansfield resolution were:

Wayne Morse (D-Ore.), Herman E. Talmadge (D-Ga.), William Proxmire (D-Wis.), Quentin N. Burdick (D-N.D.), Ernest Gruening (D-Alaska), Thomas J. McIntyre (D-N.H.), J. William Fulbright (D-Ark.), Peter H. Dominick (R-Colo.), Milton R. Young (R-N.D.), Edward V. Long (D-Mo.), James B. Pearson (R-Kan.), Ralph W. Yarborough (D-Tex.) and Robert C. Byrd (D-W.Va.).

Senate Debate Nears on Troop Cuts in Europe