

Brosio Warns U.S. on Links With Russia, Hasty Troop Cut

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NATO Secretary General Manlio Brosio yesterday politely but firmly proffered the United States some advice on its policies in both Asia and Europe.

In a National Press Club speech, the veteran diplomat who has served as Italian Ambassador to Washington, Moscow, London and Paris covered a wide range of foreign policy areas:

Vietnam: The best informed opinion is that the Soviet Union "would be willing to promote peace" in Vietnam "but they cannot." But, because Moscow "would prefer the kind of peace which would strengthen its power in the Communist camp and in the third world," it is reasonable to assume that at an opportune moment the Russians "may try to induce the United States to accept a bad peace—the abandonment of the South Vietnamese people first to the Vietcong and eventually to Hanoi."

"A military setback or a bad peace" in Vietnam "may undermine the indispensable confidence of America's allies in American commitments."

"We must be careful not to mistake the beginning of a long historical process" in Soviet policy "for a result already achieved, a possible and desirable evolution for a reality."

While the risk of Soviet aggression has been "reduced to minimum proportions," Moscow has "shifted its policy from an immediate military threat to diplomatic and political action, and the struggle continues."

As of today, "a politically united Europe is far away, the Atlantic alliance has received a blow" in France's defection "and Germany is in a state of uneasiness."

Germany: The key issue now is Germany. East-West efforts at reconciliation, if carried too far, could become "a sanction for the status quo."

If that occurs, "the temptation for Germany to try a direct approach to the Soviets may become too strong. We must not make the mistake

of thinking that the Russians are pursuing a genuine non-expansionist policy in Europe."

The status quo is "a powerful lever" in Soviet hands "to exert pressure on West Germany, which is the key of the European balance of power."

Moscow's approval of a "pan-European policy" that excludes American ties to Europe shows "the limits and the pitfalls of a disorderly race toward unconditional detente and toward an ill-defined reunification of Europe."

The Western Allies should never forget that "any progress toward detente should be accompanied by progress toward the solution of the German problem."

(Later yesterday, Secretary of State Dean Rusk was asked at his news conference whether the United States now puts East-West detente ahead of German reunification, as President Johnson recently appeared to do. Rusk calling the Brosio speech "very frank," denied that, but went on to cite various American moves to improve relations with the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe.

NATO Troops: While there is "some basis" for the American belief that European allies are not bearing their share of the NATO burden, all should see that the alliance is not jeopardized by any member, European or American.

"It is one thing to modernize and streamline" NATO; "it is another to reduce for financial or for more dubious political reasons" the NATO forces. Such forces "are the silent and invisible, but often decisive, partners around the bargaining table."

All these remarks by Brosio constituted a departure for a

NATO Secretary General who is employed by all 15 allies including the French, whose Ambassador was on hand with most of the other envoys yesterday.

Brosio met while here with Rusk, Defense Secretary Robert S. McNamara and other top officials. Yet he chose publicly to all but say directly that the United States must not cut its forces too soon or too deeply and it should not become over-eager in its relations with the Soviet Union.

This was Brosio's annual visit here. He left yesterday for a similar call in Ottawa.