

Post 9/1/66

European Capitals Silent On Proposal to Cut Forces

There was no official reaction yesterday from Bonn, London or Paris on the senatorial proposal to cut American forces in Europe, but the suggestion appeared likely to have its biggest effect in West Germany.

Bruce van Voorst in a special dispatch from Bonn reported that Social Democratic Deputy Karl Wienand, vice chairman of the Bundestag's Defense Committee told him that "the report, whether or

not it has the backing of the Administration, will most certainly be introduced into the (committee) talks as further evidence that (Defense Minister Kai-uwe) von Hassel has simply not been in step with developments in the Western alliance."

Von Hassel has been under fire because of the resignation of top military leaders. Wienand contended that he either does not grasp these developments "or won't be honest with the German public about it."

The opposition Social Democrats hope to make political capital from von Hassel's troubles. The closest thing to an official comment was the re-

mark of a government source that "the only official word we have from the Americans is (Defense Secretary Robert S.) McNamara's comment that troops strength at the end of 1966 will be back up to the spring figure of 225,000."

Van Voorst said this source later added that there was concern at Secretary of State Dean Rusk's remark earlier in the week rejecting the idea of withdrawals but adding that cutbacks in any case are "a NATO matter and involve consultation with our allies." This was being taken, he reported, as indicating Rusk and McNamara were about to raise the possibility of a withdrawal.

Resolution On Europe Forces Cut

Following is the text of the resolution introduced in the Senate yesterday by Majority Leader Mike Mansfield on behalf of the Senate Democratic Policy Committee:

Whereas, the foreign policy and military strength of the United States are dedicated to the protection of our national security, the preservation of the liberties of the American people, and the maintenance of world peace; and

Whereas the United States in implementing these principles has maintained large contingents of American armed forces in Europe, together with air and naval units, for 20 years; and

Whereas the security of the United States and its citizens remains interwoven with the security of other nations signatory to the North Atlantic Treaty as it was when the treaty was signed, but the condition of our European allies, both economically and militarily, have appreciably improved since large contingents of forces were deployed; and

Whereas the means and capacity of all members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization to provide forces to resist aggression has significantly improved since the original United States deployment; and

Whereas the commitment by all members of the North Atlantic Treaty is based upon the full cooperation of all treaty partners in contributing materials and men on a fair and equitable basis,

is, but such contributions have not been forthcoming from all other members of the organization; and

Whereas relations between Eastern Europe and Western Europe were tense when the large contingents of U. S. forces were deployed in Europe, but this situation has now undergone substantial change and relations between the two parts of Europe are now characterized by an increasing two-way flow of trade, people and other peaceful exchange; and

Whereas the present policy of maintaining large contingents of U. S. forces and their dependents on the European continent also contributes further to the fiscal and monetary problems of the United States:

Now, therefore, be it resolved by the Senate, that—

1. It is the sense of the Senate that, with changes and improvements in the techniques of modern warfare and because of the vast increase in capacity of the United States to wage war and to move military forces and equipment by air, a substantial reduction of U. S. forces permanently stationed in Europe can be made without adversely affecting either our resolve or ability to meet our commitment under the North Atlantic Treaty;

2. S. Res. 99, adopted in the Senate April 4, 1961, is amended to contain the provisions of this resolution and, where the resolutions may conflict, the present resolution is controlling as to the sense of the Senate.