

# Nixon Tells Europe to Cooperate

Washington

President Nixon warned America's European allies yesterday that failure to cooperate with the U.S. in political and economic fields could lead to a substantial cut in American military forces in Europe.

Asserting that "the Europeans cannot have it both ways," Mr. Nixon said that the Atlantic community could not expect Washington to maintain forces in Europe at their present levels if the Common Markets countries "gang up against the United States" in political and economic areas.

At the same time, he told a Chicago audience in his nationally-televised question and answer session that his policy of detente and negotiation with the Soviet Union is vital to prevent "a massive crisis" that might produce a nuclear confrontation.

Defending his personal contacts with Soviet leaders, Mr. Nixon said "it's far better to have the voice of the President of the United States heard from within the Kremlin than on the outside, because those walls are mighty thick, I can tell you."

"So, therefore, let's continue to talk to them so we won't have to fight them," he said. Mr. Nixon hopes to make a return trip to Russia in June.

But while Mr. Nixon seemed pleased with American relations with the Communist powers, he was clearly irritated over the sharp polemics of recent weeks and months with the nine members of the Com-

Back Page Col. 2



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PRESIDENT NIXON AND CHICAGO MAYOR RICHARD DALEY  
The Democratic mayor led the applause as the President was introduced

## From Page 1

mon Market, all of whom have been allies of the United States in the postwar world.

The problem has intensified in recent weeks because of Mr. Nixon's desire to go to Europe next month on the 25th anniversary of NATO climaxing what became known last April as "the year of Europe."

He has hoped to sign two declarations of principles: a security pledge with the other 14 members of NATO, and an economic-political document with the Common Market nine, all of whose members, except Ireland,

also belong to NATO. Mr. Nixon said that the NATO document "has gone forward on schedule," but that the market declaration "has not gone forward."

"We face the situation that, therefore, if the heads of government were to meet at this time, for example, in the month of April, we would simply be papering over difficulties and not resolving them," Mr. Nixon said, suggesting that he might not go to Europe at this time.

Mr. Nixon particularly touched on the sensitive issue of American troop levels in Europe.

There are currently 515,000 American troops in Europe, and officially the administration has pledged not to reduce that number except as part of an agreed mutual cutback with the Russians.

"As far as security is concerned, the United States is indispensable to the security of Europe — not only our presence in Europe, but also the fact of our nuclear strength," Mr. Nixon said.

He then linked the force levels to the dispute with the market by saying that unless an agreement was reached "on both the security and the economic and political fronts" Europeans and Americans will go their own ways.

"I can say one thing: I have had great difficulty in getting the Congress to continue to support American forces in Europe at a level that we need to keep them there," he said.

"In the event that the Congress gets the idea that we are going to be faced with economic confrontation and hostility from nine, you will find it almost impossible to get congressional support for continued American presence at present levels on the security front."

Although Mr. Nixon did not single out France, other American officials have made it clear that their dispute is primarily with Paris.

They have argued that the other Market countries, in an effort to achieve political unity, have tended to go along with the French on most issues.

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