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Editorial Correspondence

The Defense Of The Free World

By THOMAS L. ROBINSON
Publisher, The News

(Editor's Note: This is another in a series of articles Mr. Robinson is writing from the capitals of Europe.)

PARIS. France—After spending some very enlightening hours here at SHAPE, I have a much clearer grasp of the extremely vital and far-reaching problems facing the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, better known as simply NATO.

Gen. Alfred M. Gruenther, the Supreme Allied Commander in Europe, graciously received me for a splendid long talk in his own office. For the past 14 months, Gen. Gruenther, a brilliant and dynamic leader, has been in charge of this command which involves no less than the destiny of the free world. Gen. Eisenhower was the first Supreme Commander. Gen. Ridgway followed him, and now the total responsibility is on the shoulders of Gen. Gruenther.

To sit down with Gen. Gruenther and have him tell you about the immensity of the task of preparing an adequate defense of the free world is to realize that any philosophy of "isolationism" for the United States or any other free country will prove to be not only futile but disastrous.

Several large maps in Gen. Gruenther's office are eloquent testimony to the fact that the enormous territory controlled by Soviet Russia makes it mandatory for the remaining free nations to weld themselves together and develop a military strength and a degree of cooperation unparalleled in all history. Any weak link in NATO's armament for defense can spell disaster.

There is not an atmosphere of undue alarm at SHAPE, because officers like Gen. Gruenther and Gen. Lauris Norstad, his air deputy, realize that much has been accomplished in the past three and a half years of intensive activity in building and strengthening the NATO organization. Nevertheless, the top leaders of SHAPE are cognizant of the fact that Russia and her army are steadily growing stronger, and there must be no lessening in the great effort to improve the efficiency and power of a closely integrated NATO military machine.

At the present time it is believed that Russia has approximately 175 divisions in her army, and her satellites have an additional 80 divisions. The Russian air arm consists of some 20,000 planes, most of them powered with jet engines. As for her navy, Russia boasts today of an investment since the war of more than \$30 billion dollars in her fleet, which includes approximately 400 submarines.

In Russia today there are about six million men under arms. Estimates show that roughly four and a half million of this number are in the army, one million in the Soviet Air Force and roughly a half a million in the navy. Reports reaching NATO from reliable sources show that the Russians are improving their military machine from the standpoint of the quality of their equipment and the efficiency of their personnel.

The mission of NATO from a military viewpoint is entirely defensive. The maintenance of a sound economy in countries such as Great Britain, France and Italy have made it impossible to have standing armies comparable in sheer numbers to those of Russia. The problem has been to meet Russia's strength in manpower with the expert training and performance of NATO forces, coupled with a superiority in atomic striking power. The accomplishments of SHAPE reveal that in just a few years the various commands in Europe have not only come into being, but their training and capabilities have been constantly improved.

As many of our readers know, the Northern Command has operational headquarters at Odo. The Central Command is based at Fontainebleau, only a short distance from SHAPE. The Southern Command is at Naples where the U. S. Sixth Fleet can give strong support for operations. Headquarters for the Mediterranean Command is at Malta.

Salute To The Young Democrats

THAT smoke you smell today is from political bonfires kindled by hundreds of North Carolina Young Democrats. Charlotte is playing host to as vigorous a band of political activists as the Tar Heel state has seen in years. What is especially interesting is the fact that this fire and enthusiasm is flickering so brightly in a nonpresidential election year.

North Carolina's Young Democrats Club is no cub scout pack of political amateurs either. Many of the youngsters packing YDC cards are already veterans of the arena.

It is particularly refreshing to see such an energetic group at a time when there is growing concern all over the nation about the reluctance of youth to take an active interest in public affairs. In many places across the land, young people are shunning public voice of any kind. The time has come, lamented

It is the job of Gen. Gruenther and his staff of about 400 officers, representing all the NATO member nations, to administer the activities of these four major European commands. The work involves frequent trips by air to all the strategic command areas. A leader in Gen. Gruenther's position must not only be an accomplished soldier but also an ambassador constantly building up a strong morale as well as eternal vigilance among the leaders and the people in every NATO country.

A visitor at SHAPE obtains a most graphic and inspiring impression of internationalism at work. Here in one modest building are the officers and enlisted personnel of the 12 nations comprising SHAPE. Language barriers are swept aside because most of the personnel speaks both English and French, and many of the staff know still more languages.

As Gen. Gruenther has repeatedly said, "If the same strong spirit of cooperative action and unity as we have at SHAPE characterizes the relations of the 400 million people of NATO nations, the peace of the free world would be permanently assured."

Gen. Gruenther's astute knowledge of conditions in every country of Europe is most impressive. He knows far more than the military status of each nation. The political situation, although not his responsibility, is so closely allied with the ability of each nation to build up its strength that Gen. Gruenther must have at his command all details regarding the political and economic developments in each nation. It is a task of appalling proportions.

The crucial problem at the moment, and it was stressed by Gen. Gruenther, is to maintain a West Germany which makes a major contribution to the "military shield" which must protect all of Western Europe in the event of an attack by the Russians.

As I write this Anthony Eden is about to land in Paris to discuss ways in which West Germany can be brought into the future plans for the defense of Europe. The urgency of the situation is felt by all the military leaders of SHAPE for without approximately 12 army divisions and some 1,200 planes, provided by West Germany, the total defense forces of NATO are incomplete.

PLEASED ME to have an opportunity to talk for an hour with U. S. Air Force General Norstad, the most youthful looking four-star general in any branch of our service. A shrewd and articulate analyst of the tremendous problem of defending Europe with the aid of air power and atomic weapons, Gen. Norstad gave me a vivid picture of the fine progress which has been made in the total NATO program of strategic points throughout Europe. Some 16 more will soon be added to this number.

From Gen. Norstad I learned beyond a shadow of doubt that what should and must continue to give us an essential measure of security in the western world is the amazing strength and leadership of the United States Air Force. Our planes and those of Great Britain, the two powers equipped with atomic bombs, are the margin of superiority which we must count heavily upon in the event of an attack from Russia. Gen. Norstad's charts, statistics, and other reports of progress in building the air power of SHAPE gave me a renewed feeling of confidence.

In conclusion, just like to report that nothing has inspired me so much in my visit to Europe as this opportunity to see the leaders at SHAPE and to hear them discuss their tasks. Although a great deal has been accomplished in the vast NATO program of pooling and coordinating the military strength of the free nations, it is perfectly evident that there is much still to do. What we must remember in the United States is that the defense our own shores depends upon our willingness to do a superlative job in contributing to NATO. Our first line of defense, and perhaps our last line, is right here in Europe. We must not forget that fact.

U. S. Will Delay Arms To Germany

Germany must be delayed for at least one year. Note—U. S. military men complain that the German stockpile of arms is so large that it is not necessary to have it stored in the United States and Europe which the Pentagon needs for its own equipment. The stockpile problem will be critical, yet the arms can't be shipped.

Hush—Hush On Joe
Some of Joe McCarthy's activities are now getting the usual bush treatment from the press. It's a decided contrast to what he used to get.

Obviously he must have got clearance from the Senate. Knowledge of California, to attend such an important political dinner, and it's interesting that he is particularly interested in California, but ignored the other Republican senator from California, Tom Kuchel.

Joe McCarthy, who seems to be dabbling a bit in politics lately, was at the same hotel with McCarthy during the dinner covered by the press. The two were at the same hotel the summer before when Hoover gave his press interview praising McCarthy.

TO STADIUM



... and remember the immortal words of Leo Durocher, 'Nice guys don't win ball games' ...

People's Platform

'Condensing' The Classics

Charlotte Editors, The News: "There is no 'Short Cut' to Art." It has come to my attention. In it you take exception to the RCA Victor 45 rpm album records, "The Listener's Digest," in which 12 masterpieces are condensed for the novice listener.

You may well ask your editorial writer why, here in Charlotte, the Opera Association has had less support than it deserves or why the Charlotte Symphony Orchestra is spottily attended when at the same time artists of lesser talents can fill Memorial Stadium or an unattended armory with horrible acoustics. The answer is too obvious to list upon here although it would make good subject matter for editorial scrutiny.

Less than 16 percent of the records sold nationally fall into the category called "classical" (a better term: serious). At RCA Victor we realize that in this other 84 per cent of the records being sold are a great number which would, if properly exposed, enjoy, appreciate and love classical music to the same degree as your writer. But a person doesn't just sit down, listen and immediately comprehend all the subtleties of serious music. In fact, it can be very complex and frightening to the uninitiated.

"The Listener's Digest" has attempted, quite successfully in my opinion, to overcome this difficulty in presenting the ten works of Beethoven, Brahms, Tchaikovsky, et al. in abridged form editing in much the same manner you will find that other writers has on his book rack or one which he will criticize editorially, and you, the consumer, will be surprised. "The Listener's Digest" is that of a primer for the average man presenting these masterpieces in such a manner as to not overwhelm him at first exposure.

Several years ago I received your News a weekly column reviewing the better records of all labels feeling that this would generate added interest in good music. Your refusal was fast, firm and final. Your attitude then is in sharp contrast with your Monday editorial.

You carp at the practice of condensation in art. Being consistent you then must feel that the Reader's Digest is equally at fault with their condensation of both standard and current literature. However, these records are a simplified and easy-to-listen-to introduction to great music.

They are especially helpful for those who substitute for a complete musical work is too long to absorb in its entirety on first hearing.

"The Listener's Digest" serves as a guide and short-cut for people who have avoided classical music because they don't know how to develop their listening ear without some assistance. In short, the purpose of "The Listener's Digest" is to make good music more accessible. It accomplishes this by excerpting the most familiar themes from well-known symphonic and instrumental music and relating them to other,

less familiar themes from the same compositions.

"The Listener's Digest" idea, while new on phonograph records, is not new in music appreciation courses and has its parallel in literature, where the classics as well as new authors have been presented in condensed form and have stimulated people to seek first-hand acquaintance with complete works in their original form.

The principle has been applied with success in fiction, articles, in biography, etc. Now it is applied to music.

Leopold Stokowski, one of the country's leading conductors, says:

"The immortal Masters of Music have created themes and melodies which were composed by the hand of inspiration. The Listener's Digest records present these inspired moments in brief and clear form for those whose time is crowded by modern life and who wish to enrich and extend their cultural horizons."

F. FISHERMAN, Manager, Record Dept., Southern Radio Corp.

Statement Issued on Snook Brothers Inc.

Daytona Beach, Fla. Editors, The News: I SHOULD LIKE to call your attention to an article in The Charlotte News, dated Aug. 24, 1954, which article concerns some changes recently made in the firm known as Snook Brothers Inc. In this article certain statements of the author, Clement Altice, are given.

I believe your advertising and news files will substantiate the fact that Snook Brothers Inc. was organized in 1945 by myself and my brother, the late Russell A. Snook. I remained active in the firm until January of 1949 at which time I withdrew from the firm and sold my stock to my brother.

In 1946 a third brother, Harry D. Snook, became associated with us in a sales and managerial capacity, and following my withdrawal, became a stockholder and vice president of the firm. His recent resignation now leaves the firm without any of the brothers who were instrumental in the organization and growth of the business.

This statement would hardly have been necessary had the article referred to above been based on the facts and because of this situation I respectfully request that you either publish this letter in its entirety in an early issue of The Charlotte News, or publish a statement based on the facts as outlined above, in order that this situation may be finally clarified.

—HAROLD E. SNOOK

Republicans Being Blamed For 1954's Economic Pinch

By STEWART ALBOP

WASHINGTON THE MUCH advertised trend toward the Democrats has now been made official by the Maine election. After a long trip through several states, this reporter has no doubt whatsoever about the reason for this trend.

People are being pinched in the pocketbook, and they are blaming this painful constriction on the Republicans. It is as simple as that.

The Republicans, moreover, are playing straight into the hands of the Democrats by claiming that the country is rolling in prosperity, and that anyone who doubts this is a "prophet of gloom and doom." The fact is that the Eisenhower administration has been the victim of its own statistics.

It is statistically accurate to say that the country is prosperous—marvelously prosperous by the standards of the thirties, reasonably prosperous by any standards. But this statistical truth is utterly misleading politically.

Almost everywhere this reporter went, he heard the same phrase—"Things aren't too good around here." Always, there were special, local reasons—coal in West Virginia, coal and farm prices in Kentucky, textiles in New Jersey, and so on. State milk prices are down, and there is serious unemployment in New England one-industry towns. In Ohio, people tell you, "This is steel country, you know, and steel's been operating at only two-thirds capacity."

Again and again, the traveling reporter runs into the political symptoms produced by this economic malaise.

JUMPED THE TRACES In Kentucky, the able Republican Senator John Sherman Cooper, is not given much of a chance of re-election anyway. But he would be given no vote at all if he had not jumped the administration traces and voted for high farm price supports.

In New York, W. Averell Harriman, probable Democratic nominee for governor, expects to base his campaign squarely on the issue of unemployment and update milk prices—and he expects to win on these issues.

In Ohio, the Democratic incumbent Sen. Thomas Burke, started out talking about social and economic matters as foreign policy. But he ended in a chat with David L. Lawrence, maverick and true Democratic boss of Pittsburgh, Pa. Lawrence told him of a carefully surveyed but uninitiated, which showed that unemployment and under-employment were the first concerns of an amazingly high percentage of voters in the Pittsburgh area. Now Burke had decided to build his campaign very largely around such economic issues.

Eden Eyes Political Omen While Fixing Foreign Policy

By DORIS FLEESON
LONDON SOME BRITISH domestic politics is involved in the sudden, swift search of Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden for an acceptable form of German rearmament.

A sizeable chunk of British voters has just made it clear in a rather unambiguous but unmistakable way that it has misgivings about rearmament of old acquaintances of the voters, the Germans. They are Labor voters, it is true, so the immediate problem belongs to that world traveler and author, Clement Attlee.

But Mr. Eden has been leaning comfortably on a bipartisan agreement to foreign policy in which Attlee helped to take care of the Bevanite danger. Also a Gallup poll has just shown that Labor would now win a general election—an omen of popular support for Labor voters that no sensible politician would disregard.

TIME TO ACT The Tory foreign secretary may well feel that time is of the essence, before a drift is set in motion which cannot be stemmed. What Mr. Eden is said to have in mind, to still the alarms and calm the nerves of the wing and the Labor left, is a proposal for some kind of inspection system for all the forces committed to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. This would include Germany, since he hopes to bring Germany into NATO.

It would also include two great NATO powers—the United States and Great Britain—who for themselves would not accept the curbing of their sovereignty which was an integral part of the de facto European Defense Community. Just how Americans and

patches, but not much got into print. The dinner was significant, however, because it has been stated that Republican support for the campaign only in states where requested. It has also been stated unofficially by a source at the White House dinner that the

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