

DI
Diary

SEPT 9

Discussion politics in Sept 9 1950 50-10
next 5-10 years

Here in Geneva where I've looked at the Palais des Nations from a neat little pleasure boat this morning and refreshed my memories of the Europe of 1911 and enjoyed a cloudless September sky I turned to read the Alsop brothers article in the Sat Evening Post of Sept 2 1950. And so to forecasting and comment:

An all out war with Russia on one side and the U.S. and Western Europe will not come in the next ten years. I think Russia has not the strength. Stalin will probably die before 1955 and ^{his death} will weaken the Politburo and the Soviet Military Machine when the reallocation of power is taking place. War that called for Russian concentration at any one point would invite counter revolution ^{estate basis} everywhere else, and I cannot believe Russian power is on a

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Korea will resemble the Boer war in the way that it impresses the Americans for it will be a sorry showing and its major aspects will be nationalistic pride and ^{in protestant} intense resistance if a draft ^{or two} puts no end to the casualty lists. The Korean campaign will drag through the winter unless the Russians make a feint in Germany or the Balkans and then the U.S. government will have less difficulty in putting through rearmament and conscription. Rearmament and conscription ^{in the US} will stop Russian aggression ^{with increased taxation} but it will raise political tensions and class feeling in the U.S. to a degree quite acceptable to the Communists. Probably by May 1951 the Korean campaign will be over, with the Communists withdrawing to the 38th parallel and the power of the American Navy, Air Force and Army ready to "protect" the Near East and perhaps exploring the possibilities of reestablishing Germany with the aid of numerous Germans who know nothing but making war anyhow.

The U.S. does not realize that beating the Soviets will not convince them they were wrong: some sort of occupation and control

will be indicated. In every way we are indisposed and incapable of policing Russia; we could scarcely try without the collaboration of the Western European countries and that would lead to quarreling among the UN countries and solidifying the Slavic resistance.

I believe that an immense development of our air power, of our stock pile reserves and the reduction of our national debt are the essentials. But still more important are the administration of justice and those measures of direct public benefit as will compete with the promises of communism. Education and health and the decentralization of government must take the place of luxury and reckless waste if we are to make America capable of withstanding the plausible offers of Communism.

The most important — and the most elusive — factor in the whole picture is this: what is the number of capable honest educated leaders in each country — the absolute number and the proportion of such men to the rest of the population. In Russia this proportion has increased as education has uncovered hidden talent but the last war must have removed an equally large number. In Germany France and England those born between 1900 and 1914 are now 36-50 years old, ^{only this group} ~~most~~ ^{usable} the decimation of the first world war and during the next ten years it will grow in social influence. For about ten years there will be improvement but then the ultimate strength of those countries will stand still or slope slightly downward. I see no similar shadow for the U.S. except in the infertility of our university graduates. But what I am sure of is that for a stable and productive society the frequency with which babies of good stock are born in proportion to babies with indifferent heredity — this proportion is the most important guarantee of the future. War reduces it, as well as reducing the chances of fine stock showing its social utility.

It is beginning to be clear to me that Wade Oliver who was 60 the 30th of this August will not last the next 5 years. His physical health is not good enough to justify the assumption that he won't be an invalid before then. So, instead of taking on a successor for him in say 1953, I ought to get someone in training for RRS job in Europe and plan to bring RRS back when WO cracks. This should be one of the tasks for this coming winter. Such a new man should have a full year in New York followed by an assignment to Paris for an indefinite period.

Will Barnard's reaction to the war fever increase or diminish the present proportion of funds spent outside the U.S.? I do not know. Without some emphasis upon outside spending the proportion would presumably go down. But the case for strengthening our ties with Europe might move in just the direction of increasing expenditures in Europe.