Formula for Peace

-- The Military Security Board

As the West German people gradually take over Military Government functions, the question of military security arises — and what role a recently established organization, the Military Security Board, will play in guaranteeing a lasting peace.

The signing of the Occupation Statute and the reconciling of differences over the German federal constitution have opened the way to political responsibility. At the same time, the relaxation of controls over prohibited industries and the resurgence of production in the western zones indicates that Germany is moving toward more and more economic power. Can security against a revival of German militarism be maintained in these changing times?

Used in the sense, the term "security" implies that the trend of thought, the trend of production and the trend of living of the German people will not be directed toward warlike ends. Mental and moral demilitarization, as well as physical and industrial disarmament, is needed for security.

The objective of the United States and her victorious Allies is to ensure that Germany never again will threaten her neighbors or the peace of the world. This will be ensured only if Germans learn to think, believe and act in the terms of democracy, peace and the rights of others.

But, unless we take an active part in teaching democratic principles and suppressing aggressive nationalism, German psychology, molded by history, may be expected to react to defeat after this war as it reacted after other defeats. Such a change in the German people will have to come from within — it will have to be a moral and spiritual change. This does not imply destruction of patriotism but does mean the destruction of militarism.

The crushing defeat at Jena in 1806, which was followed by the Treaty of Tilsit in 1807, brought juvenated, and a system of universal military service planned.

The literature of the period immediately after this defeat reverberates with the echoes of the efforts made to rouse the nation to revolt and cast off the yoke fastened upon it. During this period the plan was to profess complaisance outwardly but to hoodwink and build surreptitiously until Prussia was strong enough to defy. The terms of the treaty were sufficiently stringent to make evasion difficult. Nevertheless, the Prussian

War Department exercised such ingenuity in getting around the terms of the treaty that it succeeded in seven short years in building up a national army which was able to play an important part in the overthrow of Napoleon.

Immediately after the first World War, inter-Allied commissions were appointed to control the execution of the terms of the Treaty of Versailles. Members of these commissions or sub-commissions thereof were authorized to proceed to anywhere in Germany whenever required. All facilities were to be given and the German government was to attach a qualified representative to each commission to receive instructions and to supply information. German laws were to be modified in accordance with the clauses of the treaty and necessary administrative measures were to be taken for enforcement.

The Germans, however, profited by the mistakes that the Allies made in preparing the peace. The over-elabo-
rate. Some people see a “war potential” in everything that is produced in Germany.

THE ROLE of the Board is twofold:
It must, first of all, ensure the harmonization and completion of all the legislation required in the field of security. For this purpose it will base its review on previously-established quadripartite laws and directives.

It will then have to ensure the regular implementation of laws and regulations thus published, by means of inspections conducted in accordance with certain rules. The inspectors of the Board will be empowered to make inspections of plants and establishments. If advisable, they may make these inspections without giving prior notice to the management of the plant.

The Military Security Board, by the terms of reference laid down by the Military Governors, is essentially an advisory and fact-finding agency. Through statistical analyses and on-the-spot inspections it obtains facts upon which to base reports and make recommendations to the Military Governors. The Board does not intrude in the area of either judicial or executive authority. It recommends but does not promulgate laws; it observes and reports, but neither enforces nor prosecutes.

In the military field it will ensure disarmament and guard against the resurgence of military organizations and the militaristic spirit; in the fields of industry and scientific research, it will make sure that no activity is directed towards war objectives.

The general structure of the Military Security Board corresponds to this partition of duties and includes, in addition to the directing bodies (the Commission and the Committee of Deputies) three specialized Divisions: Military, Industrial and Scientific Research. Inspection groups from these Divisions will make investigations in the field. A Secretariat is in charge of the administrative functioning of the Board.

THE COMMISSION consists of three general officers appointed by and representing the respective Military Governors.

The Deputies to the Commissioners form a permanent committee at the headquarters of the Board. It is their job to direct and coordinate the work of the Divisions.

Within each Division, each power (US, UK and France) maintains its own national element. These elements operate on a coordinated basis. Each Division is responsible, in its sphere, for the adequacy of existing regulatory measures, for inspections to ensure compliance therewith, and for recommendations to the Commission regarding violations discovered.

Since its creation last December, the Board has been engaged in studying its tasks and responsibilities with a view to determining its detailed internal organization and operating procedures. In so doing, it has completed much of the prerequisite work in connection with the review and codification of legislation pertinent to disarmament and demilitarization.

At the present time, surveillance duties of the Divisions are being performed as in the past, by the various agencies of Military Government. Transfer of these duties to the Board is to be accomplished gradually so as to avoid the mistake of tearing down the old machine before the new one is built. For this reason, key personnel in many instances are wearing two hats pending the time when they will be assigned to full time duty with the Board. + END