

THE MARSHALL PLAN AND COMMUNISM

With the signing of the Foreign Aid Bill on April 3, 1948, by President Harry Truman, the United States finally got under way with her plans for assisting in European recovery. For the past ten months the Secretary of State for the United States, George Marshall, and his supporters have been trying to put through Congress the legislation necessary for the operation of what has been popularly called The Marshall Plan. This plan consists essentially of the proposals of Secretary of State Marshall for the economic rehabilitation of the floundering countries of Europe by means of American dollars. The plan calls for concerted action by these European countries to reconstruct their economies with American financial aid, which the United States is prepared to place at their disposal to the amount of six billion, ninety-eight million dollars.

The purpose of the plan is two-fold. It is designed not only for the economic rebuilding of Europe, but also to stop the spread of Communism among those countries. Russia has opposed the economic aspect of the scheme since its infancy and countered it with her own Molotov Plan, which in reality is just another conspiracy for the Soviet domination of Europe. Unfortunately, because of the opposition to and subsequent delay of the Marshall Plan in the United States, the freedom-loving country of Czechoslovakia has already fallen into the hands of the Soviets, and Italy, Greece and France are now in the throes of a violent struggle for their independent existence. The Soviets realize that they must oppose the plan if they are to gain control over the rest of Europe. They know that in order to gain control of any country they must either use force or keep the still undominated peoples of Europe in an unsettled condition so that they may be able to excite support for Communism among the irrational mobs of discontented people of those countries. The Soviets do not wish to use force openly because they, no doubt, fear the armed might of the Allies, particularly that of the United States; so they are using every method of intrigue and undercover pressure and violence at their disposal to dominate these economically maladjusted nations. The Marshall Plan can stop this threat by guaranteeing to those peoples steady employment and a decent standard of living, and by helping them to restore the economic stability necessary for their happiness.

Perhaps the greatest need for Secretary Marshall's scheme is in Italy, France and Greece. In Italy and Greece the power of the Communists is certainly a force to be reckoned with, and also in France the Communists are steadily growing in prestige and power. In Italy the fate of the political power of the country has been decided for the time being by the defeat of the Communists in the recent elections. Here the Communists met one of their greatest

and most feared enemy, Pope Pius XII. Almost daily we hear Pope Pius exhorting the Catholic people and all people throughout the world to stem the tide of totalitarian Communism, the arch-enemy of all freedom-loving humans.

In France the Americans have a staunch supporter in Charles de Gaulle, about whose standard the opponents of Communism in France are gathering; it would not be a great surprise to many political observers if he became the premier of France in the near future.

In Greece, American aid is sorely needed also. Here the Communists are resorting more openly to force than in either of the other countries mentioned. There is not much doubt that the guerillas who are trying to disrupt the peace and harmony of that country are sponsored by Russia.

The Marshall Plan is not alone in its efforts to stop the aspirations of Moscow. Besides the help of Pope Pius XII and Charles de Gaulle, it will be greatly assisted by such agreements and movements as the Geneva Trade Agreements, the renewed efforts of Britain, France and the United States to have Italy made a member of the United Nations; and the five-power mutual assistance pact between Britain, France, Belgium, Luxembourg and the Netherlands.

If this plan fails, the result may be either a war in the near future, or the domination of the greater part of Europe by the Communists. There is not much doubt of this now as it is quite evident from even a passing examination of Russia's foreign policy that her aims are the domination of the world, and the spread of her doctrine of Communism throughout it. Her policies of force and intrigue, by which she proposes to accomplish those ends, promise nothing except war as an ultimate end. The failure of this European recovery plan will mean either another globe-encircling war so destructive that it would leave a world so stripped of its social heritage that the victor would be very little better off than the vanquished; or it will mean that a vast number of the people of the world will be deprived of their inalienable rights, and their God-given dignity will be so disregarded that they will be but a tool of a totalitarian system of government centered at Moscow.

That this doctrine of Communism is contrary to true Christian ideals is clearly set forth in the following quotation from an encyclical on Atheistic Communism by Pius XI in the year 1937, "The enemies of the Church bear witness from Moscow that the Papacy has called public attention to the perils of Communism more frequently and more effectively than any other public authority on earth." So if American dollars can stop this spread of Communist treachery in Europe or elsewhere, the United States should pour them forth to the limit of her resources, and all other

countries in a position to do so should help if only for selfish motives; because if Russia once could complete her domination of the European continent, she would then concentrate her efforts on this side of the water. Thus we see that The Marshall Plan, or what has been called more recently The European Recovery Plan, is a first line of defence for the Americas against the cancerous spread of Communism.

—PAUL LANDRIGAN '49

I WAS DISAPPOINTED!

A poolroom is a rendezvous where you find the skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled all coagulated into one heterogenous mass, all striving under conditions of monopolistic competition to merit the epithet "pool shark".

Saint Dunstan's is fortunate . . . (or unlucky, as our prefect insists) . . . in having one of these magnetic, foul-aired paradises on the second corridor of Memorial Hall, about two doors from my humble abode. Usually I participate in one game of pool per day, but some days are better than others and I play four, five or even six rounds of this soothing sport.

The evening on which this particular incident occurred was cold . . . bitter cold. The flimsy corrugated birches were starkly silhouetted against the rising moon, their long, drawn-out shadows interlacing on the crackling snow. Myriads of crystalline stars sparkled in the dark immensity of the winter's sky. We had twelve-thirty permission to town, but I, depressed by the frugal weather, and financially embarrassed, decided to remain on the campus and shoot pool.

When I arrived over from supper, the cues were all occupied and ten eager students were awaiting their turn. Nevertheless, I stayed watching enthusiastically while anxiously waiting for the command, "Rack'em up, Dom." Although permission began immediately after supper, these greedy lads, all dressed up for town, had to have a game before leaving. It was amusing, however, to sit back and watch the antics of the various sharks: "Ace", with cue in hand, calling impossible shots and combinations, as his ardent fans, led on by the penetrating chuckles of "Falstaff", rooted him to victory; "Fido", scrutinizing the table for two minutes, rasping for two more, and then with a sneer, ordering the referee to spot the balls properly or to "rack'em up again"; "Barkis", missing a sucker (as usual) and muttering something about a crooked cue. Several times throughout the evening I was forced to vacate my comfortable chair in the corner when left-