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NEWS RELEASE

from the **HUMPHREY** for **SENATOR** **VOLUNTEERS**

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GERMANY ASSERTS NEW LEADERSHIP FOR EUROPEAN DEFENSE

Creation of sound defenses in Western Europe hinges on "rebirth of a new Germany, and the restoration of the free German people to a free and equal place among nations", Senator Hubert H. Humphrey declared today at a joint service club luncheon in the Faribault Hotel.

Failure of the proposed European Defense Community, Senator Humphrey said, makes the western European situation "the greatest problem we have today".

"The reasons for this failure are complex, but one of them lies in high-pressure tactics of our own government. However, the outlook is not so black as it may seem. German rearmament and full German Sovereignty must spring from the desire of the German people themselves. Now that Germany is asserting its own initiative, rather than feeling compelled to act under American pressure, I am confident a real European defense system can be created", Senator Humphrey said.

Senator Humphrey warned that "both the present and past administrations made mistakes in pushing too hard and too soon for German rearmament".

"We should remember the great desire of the German people for the unification of their country", he said. "Germany today is divided because of a cynical violation of postwar agreements by Soviet Russia. Germany has become more and more divided as the Russians have remilitarized East Germany. Everyone in Germany can read the signs -- and everyone knows that the so-called 'Volkspolizei' means the rebirth of militarism in East Germany. This remilitarization was imposed from above, by an autocratic communist dictatorship. It was imposed despite the sincere desire of thoughtful, serious Germans to live in peace and in an atmosphere of freedom.

"Today, the leaders of West Germany have realized that the division of Germany is a fact. Because of the fact of a remilitarized East Germany, we have to face the fact which follows: the proper course, and the only course, for our policy, is a sovereign West Germany, with a free system of the common defense of Europe.

"Freedom is a strong incentive. Today it is clear that the greatest incentive we can offer to East Germany, is a free and sovereign West Germany, committed to defend the Western traditions of Christian Democracy for which the leaders of West Germany stand.

"The leadership of Western Germany has recognized these facts. As a result some European defense system will be achieved. In fact, the Germans themselves -- under one of the great Europeans of modern times, Chancellor Konrad Adenauer -- are now taking the initiative in seeking a new way to achieve a common defense of European freedoms.

"It is Chancellor Adenauer who is pressing for consultations, seeking new ways to provide for the common defense and well-being of Europe.

"Today we have to recognize that the German people have again become the leading potential power on the European continent. The western world is fortunate that German leadership is accepting the responsibilities that go with power, and is seeking a way to serve the democratic aims of Europe", Senator Humphrey said.



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