

Radio Script -- January 24, 1957 (five minutes)
by Senator Hubert H. Humphrey

DISARMAMENT

In seeking to achieve our common goal of a just and honorable peace, it is essential that our country keep searching ~~for~~ and considering alternative approaches to lessening tensions that might lead to war. That has been one of the key objectives of the Senate Subcommittee on Disarmament, of which I am honored to be chairman. I am pleased to be able to report that the Senate's Foreign Relations Committee has recommended continuing the Special Disarmament Subcommittee, which was originally scheduled to terminate its work at the end of January. Created by a ^{special} Senate Resolution I sponsored last year, the Subcommittee includes members not only from the Foreign Relations Committee but also from the Armed Services Committee and the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy. It is a completely bipartisan committee, with equal representation from both parties, and ~~includes in its membership such leaders of varied Congressional~~

viewpoint as Minority Leader William Knowland, Stuart Symington,
Leverett Saltonstall, John Sparkman, Alexander Wiley, John Pastore,
Bourke Hickenlooper, Harry Byrd, John Bricker, Russell Long, and
Styles Bridges.

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In addition to the valuable and useful documentation we have provided through staff studies on various phases of disarmament problems, I am convinced the Subcommittee has provided a valuable sounding board for getting the views and observations of many outstanding experts, such as scientists, educators, and diplomats, into the stream of consideration in policy development. It has served as the Congressional counterpart to the "Disarmament Secretary" role created by the President in the Cabinet, and provided an outlet for expression of viewpoint by interested public groups.

We have held several constructive and interesting hearings since the first of the year, and plan more soon. Among recent witnesses to testify were George Kennan, former Ambassador to Russia and an

outstanding authority on Russia and Germany; Paul Nitze, former director of the Policy Planning Staff in the State Department; Thomas K. Finletter, former Secretary of the Air Force; Warren Weaver, Chairman of the Committee on Genetic Effects of Atomic Radiation for the Academy of Sciences; Albert Hill, vice president of the Institute for Defense Analysis and former director of the Lincoln Laboratory at M.I.T.; John C. Elliot, advisor to the U. S. representatives on the U. N. Commissions on Atomic Energy and Conventional Armaments, and many others.

During the recent hearings, both Kennan and Nitze supported a proposal I had first made last December 15 regarding reunification of Germany and the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Eastern Europe. My proposal in December was for the exploration of a demilitarized, buffer zone through Central Europe as a possible way of getting Soviet troops out of those Eastern European countries they are now subjugating.

Former Ambassador Kennan said he did not think there is any great possibility of arriving at any agreement for reduction of armaments so long as American and Soviet forces face each other in the middle of Germany, expressing my own belief that the German unification problem must be tackled first. He agreed ~~with my views~~ that the time might be right for a re-examination of our position in Europe with the objective of seeing whether some security system could be devised that would reduce Soviet domination of the Eastern European peoples without leaving our Allies at the mercy of Soviet power. Nitze said he had suggested to officials in the Administration that they "consider the question of whether or not it would be advisable for us promptly to offer to withdraw our forces from Germany, provided that the Russians would withdraw their forces..out of Central Europe."

Copies of this committee's hearings and staff studies can be obtained by anyone interested, just by writing my office in Washington.

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