If in Trouble--the Truth

As I write these lines, American troops in North Korea are being pushed out of their by the Chinese armies. The United States has not altered its tenet on going to the defense of Formosa if the government of China should not decide to attack it. It is ix supported in this tenet by either Great/Britain, France, Holland, or Belgium. It is the declared intention of the United States to spend about a billion dollars in an attempt to produce hydrogen bombs and to creat a military force on the continent of Europe strong enough to withhold the Russian attack. This is clearly possible only if Germany is reconstructed and rearmed, and it is the declared intention of the United States to achieve this.

The increasing military might of America and Russia represents a threat to each other's security. This threat has been rapidly increasing ever since the end of the last war, and it is not astonishing that in the United States more and more people think in terms of a preventive war. A military preparedness on the scale now contemplated by the United States with a military expenditure of perhaps 50 million dollars and an army held in readiness of more than three million men represents the thinking of Americans a burden which they are not inclined to carry over an indefinite period of time. The assumption of this burden will inevitably lead to sentiment in favor of a preventive war. The possibility of the preventive war waged by the United States though it is in many people's mind is rarely publicly expressed kx the Secretary of the Navy, Mr. Matthews did express it publicly and yet was permitted to remain in office. But though the thought of preventive war is in the minds of many Americans, none of them in their right senses advocates that we should go to war right now. Their concept of preventive war, however, is rather that we should rearm ourselves, reconstruct Germany, make Western Europe impregnable, and then have a show-down with Russia and go to war if Russia cannot satisfy our legitimate need for security. Just what Russia should do to satisfy our legitimate needs for security has not so far been stated. Presumably

we want her to give us certain material guarantees rather than her pledged word, but just what this guarantee should be remains obscure. Judging by analogy, we must assume that many people in Russia may also think in terms of a preventive war even though no public utterances to this effect have come to our notice, but in contrast to the American adherence to preventive war, the Russian adherence to preventive war are to prevent that war until Western Europe is rearmed. If Russia is going to fight a preventive war, the time for her to do so is right now. Having gone out on a limb with respect to Formosa, the United States is offering to Russia an opportunity to being embroil us in war without kaxing the aggressor and operating under the framework of the United Nations. Thus she will enable Western Europe to declare herself neutral and we will not have to invade Western Europe, at least in the early phases of the war and perhaps not any time during the war. For if the Chinese attack Formosa in the near future while our pledge to defend Formosa still stands, we are bound to defend Formosa. And if we do os and use Japan as a base for our defensive operations, the Russian-Chinese alliance will bring Russia into the war. World opinion will not hold that either China or Russia acted illegally and the countries of Western Europe will act both in conformity with world opinion and with their own need of immediate survival, and with their own desire to avoid immediate occupation by Russia if they declare themselves to be neutral. What England might do in these circumstances is difficult to say, but she might decide to help us by giving us "all aid short of war." Because xxx went out on a limb when we pledged ourselves to defend Formosa and because the Chinese by may make it exceedingly hard for us to crawl back from the limb, the timing of a Russian American war is today and will remain for the next few months in Russian hands. During these next few months the war may come any day.

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