

Eden Offers, Ike Takes on "Atlantic Union as a Goal"

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HISTORY'S FIRST transatlantic discussion of Atlantic affairs by Telstar was held July 10 by CBS News-and former British Prime Minister Eden (Lord Avon) rose immediately to the occasion, speaking in London, he reminded former President Eisenhower in Denver of the "courage and vision" shown by the Founding Fathers in forming "in the days of the ox wagon...the first federation," and asked if the time had not come in these Telstar days to "set our sights high again and work for something of that kind"-an "Atlantic Union."

General Eisenhower answered forthwith: "You have stated the final objective beautifully and eloquently." This was the first time, to our knowledge, that he had publicly recognized Atlantic federation as the objective, even ultimately.* He added that its realization "one day will insure the, really, the peace of the world." But that was all he said by Telstar to speed that happy day; he turned then to the Cold War and why we hadn't "done too badly."

The next of the four statesmen to participate in this "Town Meeting of the World" was Jean Monnet, chief architect of European Union, speaking in Brussels, the capital of the Common Market. He ignored Lord Avon's question, and concerned himself throughout the discussion mainly with European unity, with many references to Atlantic "partnership." The fourth participant, Dr. Heinrich von Brentano, former German Foreign Minister and now Majority Leader of the Bundestag, was seen speaking in Bonn. Emphasizing the need of strengthening NATO, he added: "I want to stress what Lord Avon has said."

Toward the end of the hour-long discussion, Atlantic federation came up again, thanks to the fact that questions were permitted from the studio audiences in Denver, London and Brussels. Rising in Denver, Dr. Heber Harper, former Chancellor of the University of Denver, noted that federation meant at least "a union defense force and a union customs-free economy," and asked Lord Avon if he thought such a "political federation of the Atlantic community" would not be easier to achieve than the "intermediate steps that are proposed"-presumably European federation.

Lord Avon answered forthrightly: "I agree with you...There is a certain danger of NATO resolving itself into...the European power bloc and the American power bloc." Recognizing "the immense difficulties that confront Atlantic federation," he declared, "I would very much like that it be acknowledged as our goal, and then we can work for it by stages as we agree. So, therefore, sir, I think you and I are in complete agreement."

Dr. Harper was recently elected a member of the Board of Federal Union, Inc. publisher of FREEDOM & UNION.

It is worthy of note that the first transatlantic radio debate in history also dealt with Atlantic Union. Staged almost 25 years ago, March 9, 1939, by NBC's "Town Meeting of the Air," the

whole discussion was confined to the proposal of Atlantic federation made in *Union Now* which had then just been published. Its author, Clarence Streit, speaking before a New York audience was supported by Wickham Steed, former editor of *The Times* of London, speaking from that city, while Dorothy Detzer and the late George Sokolsky, both on the platform in New York, argued the negative side...

-The Editors

* True, General Eisenhower has stressed Atlantic "union" in his 1952 Report to NATO as Commander-in-Chief at SHAPE. In it he said: "Peacetime coalitions throughout history have been weak and notoriously inefficient. ...Nevertheless, we were expecting NATO members...to work and sacrifice together, over an indefinite period..."

"There is power in our union...Visible and within grasp we have the capability of building such military, economic and moral strength as the Communist world would never dare to challenge...Then the Atlantic Community will have proved worthy of its history and its God-given endowments. We shall have proved our union the world's most potent influence toward peace."

"Union," however, is widely used in a much looser sense than we use it in this magazine, where it is synonymous with "federation." Since General Eisenhower did not define it in this sense, and never reverted publicly even to "union" in an Atlantic context after his 1952 report, many have concluded that he meant it then in a looser than federal sense.