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SAYS RUSS OPPOSE WAR

To the Editor: Even while our delegates are negotiating the German crisis, the Pentagon is pushing plans for the installation of missile bases on the Russian borders. The fact is the proposal to make such installations was the original cause of the Russian outburst. Can we wonder that Russia fears this program? How would we react if the case were reversed, and it was Russia mounting missiles on the Mexican-U.S. border? Can we wonder that Russia threatens retaliatory missile bases on the other side of the line? The Christian Century asks (June 3) "Must We Arm the Germans?" And concludes: "The surest way to peace would be to propose the disarmament of both Germanies and the protection of an international Berlin by the United Nations." The constant cry that we are in imminent danger of surprise attack has no real basis in fact. Practically all authorities agree

that Russia—even, or especially, its leaders—do not want war. It is against their own self-interest—and they have had too recent and devastating effects from war. Cyrus Eaton, American steel magnate, recently visited Russia and came away convinced that Russia wants and needs peace desperately.

This reluctance for war is expressed also by Robert Amoy, deputy chief of CIA (Central Intelligence Agency), who is described by newsmen as "the second best informed man on Russia today." In an important report he stated categorically that Russia is not ready for war and is not preparing for war. Is it possible that there are vested interests who for money or power find it helpful to keep America scared by the threat of war? (Between the Lines—April 15.)

Be that as it may, we are burdened by heavier and heavier taxes. Three-fourths of the national tax goes for military purposes. We groan under the load, and attempt to ease it by cutting the puny allotments for education, health and welfare, thereby undermining our most important line of defense.

ALICE M. COLE,
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