

THE ELEANOR AND ANNA ROOSEVELT PROGRAM

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Description: In this segment, ER discusses a report written by John McCloy, the American High Commissioner-Designate in Germany, regarding the status of Jews living in Germany.

Participants: ER

[ER:] Thank you, Anna. Our High Commissioner-Designate in Germany, John McCloy, has just come back to make a report on his first survey in Germany. He has a very difficult job because this job of rehabilitating a country and yet not putting it in a position to again become the war-maker or the war-center of Europe. The center uh, for instance, on which all the rest of Europe depends for its economic situation and the country which can again build a war machine to start another world war, uh and still to make its people self-supporting, to make them have enough of this world's goods so that they can live happily and at a high level of uh living which they are accustomed to, not perhaps quite the level that we have here, but still Germany has a high standard of living. Now that is going to be a very great problem and I am very anxious to hear what Mr. McCloy is going to tell us is the result of his first survey. But, he made um a most interesting and provocative request the other day. In Heidelberg, Mr. McCloy urged a conference of German-Jewish delegates to remain in Germany and to persuade their people to remain there and make their homes there. It seems a great deal to ask of these people whose recent memories of Germany must be almost unbearable. But, General McCloy told the Jewish representatives that to accept the concept that Jews cannot live and prosper in Germany as they do in other lands, would be to deny the possibility of developing democracy in Germany. And he went on to say, "The world will carefully watch the new Western German state and one of the tests by which it will be judged will be its attitude towards the Jews and how it treats them."

Now, I think, of course, that it would be good for Germany if the Jewish people would- they would stay there. They know- uh they belong really, many of them have uh generations back of them of being Germans, not Jews, but Germans. But nevertheless, it's going to be very hard to wipe out the experiences of the past few years and it's going to be particularly hard for the Germans who are not Jewish to wipe them out because when you have committed outrages it makes a deeper mark on the people who have done wrong than it even does on those who suffer as a result of the wrongdoing. And I think it's going to be harder for the Germans themselves to uh actually accept a better attitude than they've had in the past. Their tendency will be to justify what they did, and then life will be unbearable for the Jewish people. Therefore, I think it's going to be a very difficult thing and I think Mr. McCloy has asked something which, for Germany, would be very wise, but which depends on the Germans, the non-Jewish Germans, to carry out successfully. I think undoubtedly many of the Jewish citizens have felt so much that they were Germans first, that it will be possible for them to start to build a new life in Germany. But unless the German non-Jewish people can do it, then we're going to have a repetition of what has gone before, and that would lead to a conflagration even worse than the last. So this is an important problem and one to be thought over very carefully. And now, back to my daughter, Anna, in Hollywood.

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