

## TO THE THOUGHTFUL BRITISH ELECTOR, WHATEVER HIS/HER VIEWS...

I wonder if you've been dissatisfied with the Common Market debate that's been going on? I have, and I'll tell you why. The one really vital fact about the E.E.C. has hardly been mentioned. This is that, if all goes well, the Market will eventually result in a United states of Western Europe. If you are in any doubt as to why we should need this, please read on: some of the following facts (obtainable in any good reference library) may surprise you.

In 1552 Russia started expanding eastwards and captured Kazan, less than 500 miles east of Moscow. By 1704, only 142 years later, the Russians had advanced overland and captured the whole Kamchatka peninsula which lies north of Japan and is bounded by the Pacific Ocean — well over 3,000 miles east of Moscow — and they are still there today. Russia did not stand still in the West either, although her advance here was at first less spectacular. A few years before they captured Kazan, they captured Smolensk (230 miles west of Moscow). They didn't capture Mogilev, less than 100 miles further west, until 1772 (1st Partition of Poland). By 1914 they had still only got as far as Grodno, a mere 220 miles further west and in the last century their advance upon Constantinople was successfully checked by the combined British, French and Turkish forces in the Crimean War. Since World War II, however, Russia has made spectacular advances in the West and her 'Iron Curtain' frontier is now less than 30 miles from Hamburg and nearer to London than John O'Groats is.

Some might argue that the great eastward expansion of Russia and the Partitions of Poland (1772-95) all took place under the Czars and that now the Russians are communists it's all different. But is it? Communist Russia partitioned Poland with Hitler in 1939 and swallowed up the three independent states of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania in August 1940. Communist Russia pushed into Poland, Roumania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Czechoslovakia and E.Germany behind the retreating Germans and Communist Russia has stayed there. And why should the Russians stop where they are when they are now so near to their natural western frontier — the Atlantic Ocean? And do you think that they would leave us alone here if they controlled the atlantic coast from Gibraltar to Brest? Remember that Land's End is less than 2,000 miles from Moscow whereas Kamchatka, on their Pacific coast frontier, is over 3,000.

At the moment we are sheltering from the Russian threat behind the Americans. How much longer will we be able to do this? We don't need to ask the South Vietnamese how good an ally the U.S.A. is to a small power standing alone (or are you still under the illusion that we are still a 'Great Power?') — nor do we need to ask the Latvians, Estonians or Lithuanians what respect the Russians have for weaker nations who cling to that national sovereignty which the anti-marketeers keep shouting about.

O.K. you may say, this is all very interesting; but I don't want a history lesson just now what I'm concerned about is today's politics and Thursday's referendum. But today's politics is tomorrow's history. What we decide on Thursday will affect not just us, but our children and our children's children, in the way that we all today are affected by the valour of the Few who knocked Hitler's Luftwaffe out of the air in 1940, only this time it's a battle at the polls and not in the air. On Thursday you will be making your contribution to British history with your vote — perhaps the most important political action you will ever be able to take in your whole life. Remember too, that in a referendum every single vote counts; there are no 'safe seats' such as we have in General Elections.

Of course jobs and prices are very important; but, when you go to the poll on Thursday, particularly if you have children or grandchildren (or hope to!), I hope you will agree that the points that I have raised here are the things you should be thinking about, rather than about the price of butter in Oslo or the cost of Mrs. Castle's knickers in Brussels. YES to the E.E.C. could lead to a YES to a powerful, free and democratic Western European state and therefore be a NO to the advancing Russians with their detestable secret police and slave labour camps and traditions of dictatorship, suppression and assassination.