

agreed that "both Governments should exert efforts to Settle justly the problems of the Middle East whose people have the right to full independence and economic freedom. "Both London and Moscow will watch keenly the consequences of America's flirtations with Saudi Arabia. But neither Arab States nor any other Asian nation will have any grievance against the joint endorsement of such a policy by America and Saudi Arabia.

Bonn and Berlin

ELECTIONS to the third Bundestag will be held in September next. But one of the main issues on which the elections will be fought is already clear. Recently, a resolution was passed unanimously by the West German Parliament declaring Berlin the capital of Germany. On the issue of a re-united, sovereign Germany, both Christian Democrats and Social Democrats are agreed. Eastern Germany is no less eager for re-union. But Christian Democrats, under the leadership of Dr Adenauer, prefer re-unification of Germany through an agreement between Russia and the Western Powers. Western Germany is a NATO member. Bonn's alliance with Western Powers has been actively supported, and effected, by Dr Adenauer. Social Democrats are opposed to this policy. Neither Social Democrats nor Christian Democrats are willing to negotiate with the Pankow regime. But the former are committed to the policy of direct negotiations between Bonn and Moscow.

Dr Adenauer and his Christian Democrats hope to be voted back to power on their achievements. Western Germany's prosperity is envied by her trade and export rivals. Dr Adenauer has been a hard bargainer with the Western Powers. Rearmament has been a burden, but the West German Chancellor has secured substantial economic concessions from the Western Powers. Besides, original plans for West German rearmament have been whittled down. No doubt, Dr Adenauer will argue tint Hungarian developments Justify his policy of rearmament and of military alliance with Western Powers. At the same time, Dr Adenauer can claim that establishment of diplomatic relations between Bonn and Moscow reflect his awareness that re-unification of Germany is not possible without the consent of Russia. Dr Adenauer's chances in the September elections

will depend largely on Moscow's attitude to Eastern Europe. Both Bonn and the Western Powers are relying on the possible consequences of the recent tragic events in Hungary. Moscow may yet upset these calculations. Russia is committed to the policy of re-unification of Germany through negotiations between the two Germanys. There are already abundant indications that Russia is aware of the urgent need of re-establishing cordial relations with Eastern European States, Western Germany's Social Democrats will welcome such a gesture by Russia before the September elections. And it would be naive to suggest that Moscow is not aware of this.

Light on Village Industries

THE Khadi and Village Industries Board has now been spending a lot. of money. Since much of its work would be largely educative and exploratory, it would be useful to know whether this money is being spent with some purpose. There is a question both of means and ends, ends because ultimately what matters is whether the industries which the Board wants to develop will answer the country's needs i e deliver the goods to meet the shortages created by development expenditure and give employment to the unemployed and fuller employment to the underemployed. It is also necessary to know whether the Board is setting about its business in the proper manner and is employing the most economical means for achieving its ends.

Now the much debated Ambar Charkha has been taken up for experiment. Its working has to be tested in different parts of the country and under varied conditions Without being unctuous about the size of the sample chosen for the experiment, surely Rs 17½ crores in one year is excessive, if experiment and trial are the purpose of the programme?

But from experience comes knowledge. And as the Board gets down to the job of developing village industries, it appears to be less unctuous, more receptive to new ideas and in short, willing to learn from experience rather than be guided by pre-conceived ideology. Had it not been so, why should it think of evaluating the results achieved in the development of village industries and set UP a committee for the purpose? Some of the experts on the committee who brought a completely

open mind into their job have been impressed by this change of attitude on the part of the Board. Self-sufficiency for the village, a permanent pattern of employment which rules out any change in occupational structure and therefore future transformation of the rural economy and and unwillingness to experiment with techniques and changeover to those which give better results, these are of course, difficult hurdles for the Board to cross. But as the Board comes into grip with reality, as it will have to, more and more, in the process of developing village industries—it will see light as it goes along and perhaps be able to give light to others, who are groping in the dark, to the Government departments, among others. Enough may not have been done yet to merit much publicity for the work of evaluation, but the Board need not be as reticent about it as it has been so far.

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