

ground of other West European international assemblies, reveals some tendencies of extending its authoritativeness far beyond its legal competence. On the other hand it brings to light a situation wherein the most important of its prerogatives, such as e.g. putting up a vote of no-confidence before the executive powers of European Communities, are not applied. In the same way as the other West European assemblies, the European Parliament represents a new, unknown before World War II, type of a parliamentary body of an international organization. Members of this body are a new rank of participants of selections of international organizations.

The term "European Parliament" is not an adequate designation. The parliamentary body of European Communities is neither a "parliament" nor a "European" one. It is only entitled to perform some unimportant functions of parliamentary control of the executive powers of the Communities with no international connotation. At the most it might be termed "West European", no East European and many West European countries not being members of this organization.

On the present stage of development the European Parliament is a constraining force. Its resolutions are not valid. They simply represent a political and moral element of pressure on the Communities and governments of member countries. At the same time they are an instrument for mobilizing particular political forces, as well as the public opinion. Nevertheless, in spite of its limited competence, the European Parliament plays a fairly important role in the relationship among six West European countries.

ANDRZEJ KWILECKI

TOPICS AND FUNCTIONS OF THE "EUROPEAN IDEOLOGY"

European ideology stands for the views at large justifying the integration processes and the functioning of West European communities formed after World War II. These notions are based on historical, geographical, economic, political, sociological and psychological premises. European ideology is conservative in its nature in that it holds in high esteem the qualities bearing up the traditional system. Faced by the public opinion it is out-of-date. It proclaims the necessity of integrating but a few West European countries, which in actual fact already maintain mutual relationships and among which prejudice and antagonism have in practice passed out of sight. Furthermore, social awareness of these communities has gone much ahead. It aspires after cooperation in a broad sense as well as after friendly connections with other nations including mid- and East European countries.

European ideology is a complex phenomenon in that the social and national base from which it evolves and its influence on the consciousness of the population are both composed of several elements. The ideology in question consists of an assortment of more or less unchanging views (e.g. ideas associated with European history and perception in early times; concepts of European culture regarded as

the most reliable fundamental of integration; notions on the hazards threatening Europe; theories of an "evolutionary revolution" and of a "systematic modernization" of capitalistic relations); and of a group of "interchangeable" theories very often contradictory (e.g. the controversy on a supra-national Europe). The European ideology represents at the same time progressive ideas and concepts (e.g. the slogan on international cooperation) and extremely backward notions (militant anti-communism). Truth-seeking and reliable analysis is interwoven with past mythological beliefs (e.g. the attempt to restore colonialism) and modern principles (commonwealth states). A situation of this kind is due to the dilemma in finding an appropriate, genuine and sound political creed for Western Europe — a conglomeration of states with divergent interests and aspirations (yet opposing communism) hoping at the same time to find an enticing formulary which would convincingly justify the existence of an independent community belonging to a category in itself.

MICHALINA BORAL

ORGANIZATIONAL FORMS OF CULTURAL INTEGRATION

The article discusses tendencies and developmental trends of the cultural integration in Western Europe in the years 1947—1964 inclusive. The considerable interest taken in this aspect of integration chiefly soon after the war is evident in the numerous and multifarious cultural enterprises undertaken both by integration organizations (WEU, OEEC; and since 1960: OECD, EEC, CECA, EURATOM, Conseil de l'Europe) and by other confederations and unofficial associations. Most eager cultural activities are performed by the Conseil de l'Europe. In recent years these activities are carried out jointly by several organizations and unofficial corporations, as for example the Centre Européen de la Culture, Fondation Européenne de la Culture, "European School Day" and others, all patronized by the Conseil de l'Europe. Cultural activities primarily concerned with educational problems of youth and adults are conditioned to the general trends of West European policy of integration. For many years a fresh, internal balance of strength, both in the political and cultural realm, has been striven for. Nowadays the cultural proceedings of European integration organizations are being extended over countries lying far beyond Europe. They can be regarded as symptoms of a new inclination of the European cultural policy.

The German Federal Republic is the one country especially interested in cultural proceedings aimed at a European integration. Hence it is represented in all of the institutions of this movement. By contributing to their activities Western Germany gains rapid access to the sources of cultural life in post-war Europe.

After a period of increased agility the interest taken in matters of European cultural integration had greatly subsided. Towards the end of the 1950's West German policy shifted from the European arena to the sphere of bilateral treaties. State-inspired lines of cultural proceedings in Europe are now substituted by a foreign cultural policy carried out by the government represented by appropriate institutions and organizations.