

‘Is Germany considering revenge?’ from the Luxemburger Wort (29 June 1945)

Caption: In the aftermath of the Second World War, the Luxembourg daily newspaper Luxemburger Wort warns its readers of the risk of a resurgence of Nazi ideology and of the threat of Germany's thirst for power in years to come.

Source: Luxemburger Wort. Für Wahrheit und Recht. 29.06.1945, n° 180. Luxembourg: Imprimerie Saint Paul. "Denkt Deutschland an Revanche?", p. 1.

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Is Germany considering revenge?

Leo Crowley and Sumner Welles on the most hotly discussed of all future issues

Washington, 29 June. In Washington the day before yesterday, Leo Crowley, the Head of America's Lend-Lease Administration, made it known that one of the main tasks of the United Nations in future would be to ensure that German militarism and German industry would never again be in a position to threaten world peace. For Germany was at present already set to start anew. The country had lost little of her armaments potential, and Germany's steel, aluminium and chemical industries in particular were to a large extent capable of production. Had the war lasted just six months longer, the Germans would have been in a position to build V-weapons and rocket-propelled planes capable of reaching New York and Washington.

An article written some weeks ago by the American statesman Sumner Welles appears particularly relevant in the light of this announcement. In it, Welles lists the errors made since 1919 and arrives at the following conclusion: 'The Germans planned and executed their wars of aggression over a 30-year period. All their efforts were put at the service of Evil, and they made no contribution to the endeavours of other nations to preserve peace. Even though the Reich currently finds itself in a position of powerlessness, the ghosts of the past still haunt Germany. They are convinced that the Reich will rise again and once more succeed in bringing the world into conflict.'

It is Germany's youth who are to carry out these plans, aided by the disunity of the Allies and through a repetition of the errors of 1920, but above all through the naivety of all those unable to think along German lines. We must remain on our guard! After this war, countless Germans who succeed in infiltrating neutral or even Allied countries will first seek to protect their interests and trade relations and secure their financial resources.

The Germans will attempt to use clever propaganda to create, within a few years, a wave of sympathy for 'poor old Germany.' In the countries in which they are operating, they will endeavour to bring industry under their control and extend their influence both to the trade unions and to the intelligentsia. They will use any means to achieve their ultimate goal: 'the reawakening of Germany to its divine mission.'