

HOME SECRETARY'S REPLY TO CRITICS

Mr. Herbert Morrison, the Home Secretary, has made the following reply to certain correspondents who have written to ask his actual view of the proper treatment to be meted out to Germany after the war.

"In the first place the concluding and most important paragraph of a recent utterance of mine on this subject was far from universally reported, and I must quote it here. I said 'But I am absolutely and firmly of the opinion that even though it will involve the setting aside of money and men by the peaceful nations, we must make it utterly impossible for Germany, or any other country with her warlike tradition, to engage in war again or to pursue policies which will lead to war.'"

"I believe that the way to permanent peace after the war is this -

- (1) Hit Germany and the other Axis Powers hard and win a decisive victory. Liquidate the Nazis and Fascists if their own people don't.
- (2) Take trouble in making a peace of world justice, and promote political and economic co-operation for the good of all peoples. Perpetuating grievances is not the way to perpetuate peace.
- (3) Let the Allies police the world and impose peace until a new and effective organisation is firmly established.
- (4) Let this international organisation not merely be a talking shop (though talking has its uses), but let it wield such decisive military and economic power as will enable it or its constituent peaceful nations to veto the very beginnings of warlike policies on the part of Germany or any other State with militarist traditions or tendencies.

"Is not this the doctrine of the Atlantic Charter? Remember its sixth paragraph: 'After the final destruction of Nazi tyranny they hope to see established peace which will afford to all nations the means of dwelling in safety within their own boundaries and which will afford assurance that all the men in all the lands may live out their lives in freedom from want and fear'.

"Is my view not in line with the message sent by Premier Stalin to the Red Army some ten weeks ago in which he distinguished sharply between Hitler's clique and the German people and the German State, adding 'The experience of history shows that Hitlers come and go, whereas the German people and the German State remain.'"