

SOARING

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GLIDING... and our bid for good will

By JON CARSEY

Soaring enthusiasts of America join the Western Germans in the joy afforded by the announcement that the Allied High Commission has approved a recommendation by Chancellor Adenauer that Gliding be permitted "as a sport" in Western Germany.

This news came to us first from our own Department of State and was received with enthusiastic approval since it is believed that Gliding and Soaring "is not an essential element in war-making potential" but on the contrary, through social sporting competition and an interchange of results of aeronautical and meteorological research that will develop, is not only a potential means of better understanding and international friendship, but is also a source of greater scientific knowledge.

It is hoped that the decision to allow gliding is only a part of a more liberal attitude toward the sporting and avocational activities of the Western Germans, for when a person is engaged in his favorite pastime, whether it is Soaring, sailing or talking with an unseen friend over a "wireless" fashioned by his own ingenuity, he is certainly not planning even verbal attacks upon his neighbors, in an effort to poison the minds of his listeners, much less preparing for armed attack.

It may be possible that other equally harmless activities are denied the Western Germans. In spite of the fact that some activities are forbidden by so called treaties, it appears the most desired are sanctioned and even sponsored in areas behind the curtain. This of course doubles and quadruples the detriment imposed by our continued denial of them.

If in the unique position we occupy in Western Germany, not separated by a curtain but elbow to elbow with the people, our bid for cooperation and good-will fails, certainly we can not hope for success with the people beyond the curtain.

To better insure success might be to seek out and foster things that are close to the hearts of the individuals who make up the nation, form its public opinion and ultimately its National and International policies, — (if they accept the type of government we are trying to sell them). To favor the hopes of minority groups, insignificant as they may seem, might mean the difference in success and failure at the conference tables.

The action in this direction by the High Commission merits commendation by all who desire world peace and harmony.

The opportunity afforded the Gliding enthusiasts of Western Germany to again enjoy Gliding and Soaring is a joy to all who are interested in the science of Motorless Flight.

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