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THE UNIFICATION OF GERMANY

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FOR the first time in post-war history, the Kremlin has been playing at diplomacy with astounding success. Moscow has often been accused of lack of diplomatic finesse, of boorish and blunt, behaviour in world conferences and in United Nations sessions, of haughty, abrupt, unceremonious "noes" to the proposals made by the Western Powers, of trying to set Britain and America against each other, and, above all, of unwillingness to co-operate in ensuring world peace and prosperity.

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Ever since the Conference of Foreign Ministers in Moscow in the Spring of 1947, the Western Powers' foreign policy has been based on the assumptions that Russia, is feverishly preparing for world domination; that, the only way to check the Politburo's expansionist designs is to "get tough" with the met! of the Kremlin. Hence Marshall Aid, the Brussels Pact, the insistent efforts to create a West German State, the Atlantic Treaty. Yet, throughout the preparations during the past two years to make Europe safe for democracy, the feeling has been abroad that Moscow has always had the initiative.

Independent opinion in Paris, London and Washington had always admitted that on Germany—and, particularly, on Berlin—the Western Powers had blindly walked into blunderland. Neither Whitehall nor White House has openly accepted this harsh judgement. On the contrary, official spokesmen have been boasting in the past few months that the Western Powers have wrested the initiative from Russia. To wit and visibly, they have succeeded in forming a West Germany State; they have now an agreed policy on Germany. The lifting of the Berlin blockade has been hailed as