

on a joint statement which would reveal a sufficient identity of view about the main lines of a „European“ settlement for the Saar to enable the elections to be postponed. In announcing their failure to reach agreement the two Governments stated that negotiations would be continued.

Nevertheless no effort to resume negotiations has so far been made and it seems unlikely that any move will be made by either side for the time being. In Germany the decision to hold elections has been received with regret but without serious dismay. The Chancellor has striven, apparently with some success, to dissociate the Saar problem from that of ratification of the Bonn and Paris Treaties. He has again undertaken to raise the question of political liberties in the Saar at the next meeting of the Council of Europe. Meanwhile, he is taking the line that it is for the French Government to make the next move. His calculation seems to be that the French are increasingly putting themselves in the wrong over the Saar and that failure to reach an agreement on the Saar problem before the question of ratification comes up for final decision in the Bundestag in December will not necessarily in itself prejudice the chances of ratification very seriously.

The French Government are taking the line that it is up to the Germans to make the next move. According to an American report, M. Schuman is said to have told a visitor from the Saar that he was convinced that it would be impossible to reach agreement with the Germans until after the German elections (i.e. June 1953 at the earliest). Other French representatives have been stating categorically that no further progress can be made until after the elections have taken place in the Saar. In any event it seems evident that for internal political reasons the French Government are not in a position to make any further concessions for the present in order to get an agreement with the Germans on the outstanding points of difference.

Points of Difference

The text is attached at Annex A of the draft Franco-German declaration over which negotiations broke down. This text shows the rival French and German proposals for the two unresolved points. The first of these relates to the question whether, as the French desire, it should be clearly agreed in advance that under the new European statute parties advocating any other solution for the Saar than „Europeanization“ should still be banned. The second deals with the problem whether, as the French wish, it should be agreed in advance that the existing economic union between the Saar and France should continue in force and simply be adapted in due course to the progress of European integration.

Any settlement of the Saar problem will clearly have to take full account of these differences. It is doubtful whether any solution acceptable to both sides could be found at the present time. In the last resort an agreement is only likely to be achieved as the result of further thorough negotiation between the French and the Germans themselves.