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NEWS ON THE CONTINENT:

Everybody was welcome at Soesdijk Palace on the 48th Birthday of Queen Juliana. With Prince Bernhard and her four daughters the Queen democratic as always. Two little refugees brought a Birthday cake on behalf of the Hungarians who're now safe in Holland. Princess Wilhelmina, a spectator nowadays, abdicated in her daughter's favour nine years ago.

Children all over the country took part, in various ways, in the general rejoicing. It was all the greater as, apparently, the recent domestic tension in the Royal Family has eased.

Wishing to meet informally as many as possible the Queen drove with her family to several places near by. Holland wished many Happy Returns to Queen Juliana.

Further East, where the Rhine flows through Bonn, representatives of N.A.T.O. met in the Town Hall. Bonn is the capital of Western Germany. In the best of spirits were Dr. Adenauer and Sigmar Martino, also Secretary Dulles and German President Heuss. When the Atlantic Council meeting began Foreign Minister Selwyn Lloyd defended Britain's proposed reduction of her forces in Europe, but there could be no real disunity in face of the warning given by the Secretary General, Lord Ismay.

Moscow seemed to underline Ismay's warning. The May Day Parade in Red Square was designed to impress upon the Nato powers that Russia, under collective leadership, no less than in Stalin's heyday, wields the biggest concentration of force of any single nation. Emphatically is that so in conventional weapons. Bulgaria and Khrushchev never tire of declaring that their trans-continental bombers and the H-bomb could strike any target in the world. However, a more peaceful note was soon sounded, all staged with consummate Russian skill. It bore in mind that May Day should still be the light hearted festival it has been for centuries. Not from militant rulers, but from the soul of peoples throughout the world, the message is proclaimed that the nuclear suicide race must be called off.