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German Revival Said Up To People

New York, (ONA)—The German people themselves will have to undertake the process of their re-education for this is a task »which is almost impossible for the Allies,« according to Erich Maria Remarque, German-born novelist who left the Reich as a voluntary exile in 1931.

The author of »All Quiet on the Western Front« and the current best-seller, »Arch of Triumph,« said here that while he intends to re-visit Germany this winter, he has no intention of living in that country again.

Remarque, whose condemnation of war in »All Quiet« so shocked German nationalists as to lead to public demonstrations, spoke forcefully on the subject of re-education of the German people.

»There is no real education of a people by the power of other people,« he warned. »The Allied generals, with the best of intentions, cannot ›re-educate‹ a whole people, as the Americans put it. The transformation of the German people is possible only from within, by the Germans themselves.

Example Only Help

»What the Allies can contribute to the democratizing of Germany is to set a good example on their own countries and to support actively and energetically all those Germans who risked their lives in the fight against international Fascism within and outside Germany,« he added.

»After Christmas, I want to go to Switzerland and from there to Germany to study the changes which have taken place. But I will not live in Germany again. I want to see how far Fascism was able to influence culture and thought.«

Must Feel Responsibility

»I am not of the opinion that all the Germans must be classified as fascists. I lost a sister and many friends who were murdered by the gestapo. It is true, however, that the overwhelming majority of Germans must be made to feel voluntarily responsible for the slaughter, the occupation of other countries and murder of 6,000,000 members of the Jewish religious community.«

One effect of the Hitler regime in Germany, says Remarque, was the uprooting of a large intellectual element and he speaks of the difficulties of the uprooted writer from the experience of his own years in exile.