

It is at periods like this that your own Association can be so important. Unless our peoples understand the need for a Western alliance and unless they understand the dangers of "separatism" in the international sphere, then there is a limit to what governments can do. That is why your discussions of the future course of our alliance can be of real importance.

Areas for Improvement

I hope, therefore, that you will devote your energies and your collective wisdom to an examination of the main problems to which NATO should be addressing itself in the next decade. There are three main areas where I believe we must move forward if we are to retain our freedom, carry out our international responsibilities and maintain the values common to our Western society: first, relations with the Communist world; second, relations between the materially rich and developed countries and those that are poor and undeveloped; third, relations between ourselves inside NATO.

As to the first, there is, unfortunately, no reason to believe that there has been any basic change in the Communist threat to the West, nor in the expansionist aims of Communist leaders. We have every reason, therefore, to continue to co-operate even more closely within NATO in maintaining strong, well-integrated defence forces. These forces should recognize that the basis of collective defence has shifted from the year of NATO's birth, when the U.S.A. had a nuclear monopoly and Europe was weak and divided, to 1964, when there is a nuclear stalemate and Europe is strong and forward-looking.

There are, moreover, some encouraging signs that, in the long term, we may be able to establish a more civilized relation with the Communist world, which ultimately may result in mere co-existence developing into greater co-operation. For example, among the reasons for the split in the Communist camp would appear to be the fact that the Soviet Union has come to appreciate the risks of the use of military force in the nuclear age and the danger and irresponsibility of threatening to use all-out nuclear war as a means to attaining national ends. On the other hand, the Communist Chinese appear more willing to risk major hostilities (recent events have made this only too clear), which could involve all of us in a thermonuclear catastrophe. The Chinese leaders do not appear to realize and, perhaps worse, possibly do not care much about the dangers and the consequences of nuclear war. China is arrogant both in its nationalism and its Communism and its leaders know little and understand less of the outside world. If we exposed them more to the views of the rest of the world, we might some day expect a more realistic policy from them. The present isolation of China encourages recurring crises.

Gap between Poor and Rich

Much has been said about the gap between the rich and poor countries and much has been done in the way of aid and assistance, yet the incontrovertible fact is that this gap is continuing to widen. Furthermore, the spread of political freedom makes the gap less tolerable to those who are its victims. Can we really expect to maintain our own expanding standards of living in a world divided between many poor and a few rich countries? Of course not!