

I have no intention of rehashing old and unproductive arguments. If the Soviet Government are genuinely interested in relaxing tensions and making progress towards international agreement on prohibiting the bomb as a part of a comprehensive disarmament plan including effective safeguards, then they must talk to us about those safeguards, that is, about control. It is not enough to denounce our proposals and say virtually nothing about their own, as Mr. Vyshinsky did last Thursday. Between now and the time the Disarmament Commission meets we shall all of us have an opportunity for considering and reconsidering our respective positions. In doing so we cannot but be influenced by the realities of our present international situation and by such factors as whether or not the political conference on Korea shall by that time have been permitted to meet. At any rate, when the Disarmament Commission does meet, and if and when the private talks suggested by the Assembly take place, it is my profound hope that attempts at genuine compromise will not be contemptuously brushed aside as they have been during our present debates and a rigid position adopted based on the hypothesis of a false and doctrinaire economic determinism.

Last Thursday the distinguished representative of the Soviet Union devoted a good deal of his time to proving to his own satisfaction that the "profound contradictions" inherent in the capitalistic economy of the United States were leading what he called "reactionary circles" in this country to prepare "to unleash a third world war".

I am not surprised that Mr. Vyshinsky, as is his wont, saw "profound contradictions" in the economy of the United States but it might have corresponded more closely with reality if he had looked for these contradictions in his own reasoning. He mentioned first of all that the current "arms race", as he called it, in this country was leading rapidly to inflation; and then, practically in the same breath, he said that these "reactionary circles" of his were forced to maintain and increase international tension because they were afraid of a depression. Well now, even economic determinism cannot have it both ways. You can pile pelion on ossa if you like, but you should not make accusations which are so directly contradictory that they cancel out.

There is one thing that the conditioned mentality which produced such a distorted version of reality cannot for the life of it see. It is a perennial and inescapable blindspot of Communist mentality. As a result of it, actions are taken that as the distinguished representative of the Dominican Republic said this morning, have a profoundly disturbing effect upon the conscience of other peoples with different values.

A Communist society is by definition as well as by education incapable of understanding and consequently of appreciating that spiritual values are on a different plane from the values of a government or even of a state. From their failure to realize or appreciate this essential difference of values, Communist states have in recent years contributed not a little to increasing international tensions by the shocks they have perhaps unwittingly administered to the rest of mankind who are not blinded in this particular way.