

I had an experience in New York recently which proves this.

On November 20, Mr. James Endicott sent me, as President of the United Nations General Assembly, a letter on behalf of the "Canadian Peace Congress" which included this:

"We welcome Canada's positive attitude towards the Indian proposal on prisoners of war and trust the discussions around this proposal will lead to a final solution."

I replied, noting, and with satisfaction, their support for the Indian resolution, which, as you know, the Canadian delegation was backing strongly.

A subsequent letter was sent to me a few days later by the same Congress. By this time, however, Mr. Vyshinsky had laid down the Soviet line with unmistakable clarity. Therefore, the second letter from the "Peace Congress" merely echoed the Soviet appeal for an immediate "cease-fire", without any prior agreement on an armistice or for the release of prisoners; matters which were to be left for later decision to a Commission on which the Communists had a veto. This second letter made no mention whatever of the Indian proposal which the Congress has welcomed only a few days before but which now had been damned by Mr. Vyshinsky, its representative at the U.N. Assembly, as a "rotten compromise". Of course, one must feel a certain sympathy for the Comrades. Moscow is some distance away, it takes time to send out the orders. Occasionally, they don't catch up with the changes subsequently decided on, and the local Communists are subjected to the humiliating spectacle of meeting themselves doubling back. It's also not easy always to remember whether one of the Cominform is still a hero-worker and disciple - of the great leader - or a rogue and a wrecker who was liquidated the day before. But this is an aside.

While certain Communist leaders behind the Iron Curtain are literally losing their heads these days, we must not figuratively lose ours as we confront their few followers in Canada.

Nor should we permit our legitimate concern with their treacherous activities to obscure the other threat which I have already mentioned; that to those freedoms - of speech, of worship, of thought and of action which we have won over the years, and which now distinguish us from those who live under despotism either of the right or the left. We should not falter now in our support of those well tried principles of justice and the rule of law, of tolerance and understanding which constitute the foundation on which democratic society is based and without which it cannot survive.

We would have little cause to worry about the loss of these essential attributes of freedom were it not for the fears inspired by our knowledge that the Kremlin has in every non-Communist country its fifth column of disciples and its sixth column of dupes. These fears can lead to demands for extreme procedures and counter-measures which go beyond the requirements of the situation, and which, if carried to their logical but probably inevitable conclusion, might produce a remedy almost as bad, and with about the same result, as the disease.