

atomic bomb as a factor in the deterioration of relations between the Anglo-Saxon powers and the Soviet Union.<sup>97</sup>

2. Foreign press comment on the speech which Mr. Molotov delivered on November 6th fastens on the remarks he made about the atomic bomb and atomic energy. The commentators conclude from what Mr. Molotov said that the withholding of the secret of the atomic bomb is the principal factor dividing the Soviet Union from the Anglo-Saxon powers. The drawing of such a conclusion in the minds of the public of other countries is apt to be dangerous. I cannot see how Mr. Molotov could have said less than he did say in view of what President Truman said in his "sacred trust" speech delivered only ten days before.<sup>98</sup> It is comment abroad that has led to Soviet comment about the atomic bomb and not vice versa.

3. The theory of the atomic bomb as the main factor in the current situation was first propogated by Alexander Werth in an article he contributed to the *Sunday Times* of London a few weeks ago. I have great admiration for Alexander Werth as a journalist but not as a judge of political developments. When his article appeared Mr. Frank Roberts, then Chargé d'Affaires of the British Embassy at Moscow, received a telegram from the Foreign Office requesting his comments. He replied by asking the Foreign Office to imagine what would be the situation if there had been no discovery of the atomic bomb. Did they then think that the present impasse which has developed would not have come to pass? Did they think that if the secret of the atomic bomb was disclosed to the Soviet Union all the present difficulties would vanish? He himself answered the last question by stating that there might be a honeymoon period of about a week and then the difficulties with which we are now faced would reappear.

4. I agree with these views expressed by Mr. Roberts. In fact I spoke to him in a somewhat similar vein before he told me the story of the telegram he received from London and of his reply. The atomic bomb undoubtedly is a factor in the present situation and a very important factor, but it is not the only nor even the main factor. The two most important factors in my opinion are (1) Anglo-American attacks on the Soviet-sponsored governments in Roumania and Bulgaria and (2) the ascendancy of the tough school in the United States. It is in relation to the latter that the atomic bomb is an important factor. The inept handling of the question by American public comment and by the United States Government has served greatly to strengthen Soviet convictions about the mistrust and suspicions pervading the international scene. If the Russophobes and the tough school had not been in the ascendancy in the United States the atomic bomb would never have become the factor that it has in the current situation.

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<sup>97</sup>La note suivante était écrite sur cette copie du document:

The following note was written on this copy of the document:

See telegram No. 3592<sup>†</sup> of Dec. 7 from London request from Halpern for copy to give to Foreign Office. R. G. Rid[dell]

<sup>98</sup>Voir États-Unis,/See United States,

*Department of State Bulletin*, Volume 13, October 28, 1945, pp. 653-6.