

What must have seemed at that time to be the easier task of maintaining peace.

Unhappily, however, the basic requirements for the full success of the United Nations did not carry over from war to peace. The unity of the great powers, upon which almost everything depended, was soon eaten away by the acids of post-war controversy. At the war's end a dozen or more great and contentious political issues rose from the political confusion of western Europe and eastern Asia. Basically these problems could all be reduced to one great question: How far would the Soviet union go in exploiting the post-war situation so as to extend its territory and increase its might? That question was no idle speculation. We had seen the boundaries of Russia extended, first in 1939 and 1940 at the expense of Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia and Finland. And as the war went on it became clear that the promise of freedom to Poland would not include those eastern Polish provinces which were in fact eventually surrendered by Poland to the U.S.S.R. After the war, parts of Roumania, Czechoslovakia and Hungary were added to the U.S.S.R. so that by 1945 the boundaries of the Soviet union had been pushed farther to the west than ever before in Russian history.

Not content with this expansion, the U.S.S.R. then proceeded to surround itself with a group of satellite governments; imposing its will upon neighbouring peoples through local communist parties supported by Russian forces. The list alone of these captive regimes is evidence of the coercion which created them. As the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Drew) pointed out this afternoon, who could believe that the Poles, a people who for centuries with courage and resolve had fought against all comers for their freedom, would submit of their own free will to Soviet control? For one hundred years the insistent demand for freedom of the Roumanians, Hungarians, Bulgars, Czechs and the Slovaks had been one of the strongest forces in European history. Only when it has been suppressed by ruthless physical superiority has this force lain dormant. Indeed, Mr. Speaker, we already see in Yugoslavia a sign that the peoples of eastern Europe are beginning to realize that the yoke that has been laid upon them is heavy, degrading and unbearable. The one border territory which has managed effectively to maintain its independence is Finland, but even there the long and menacing hand of Moscow threatens dire punishment if the slightest Soviet interest seems to be prejudiced.

The tight control which the U.S.S.R. has established by these oppressive means in eastern Europe has been given a false facade of international respectability by treaty arrangements. The Soviet government, and communists throughout the world, have been charging that the proposed Atlantic treaty is an offensive threat aimed at them. But they had no hesitation in initiating and negotiating, by other methods it is true, collective treaty arrangements in eastern Europe long before the Atlantic treaty was even considered. We are not sure how many of these treaties and agreements there are amongst the communist states, because, in spite of the terms of the United Nations charter, only a very few of them have been registered with the United Nations. So far as we can tell, however, there are over fifty treaties and agreements amongst the group of communist states comprising the U.S.S.R., Poland, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Roumania and Bulgaria. These are variously termed treaties for friendship and mutual assistance, co-operation and mutual assistance, collaboration and mutual aid, economic collaboration and reciprocal delivery of goods, trade and payment. Their total effect, however, is to spread a thick net of political and economic commitment over the areas under domination of the Soviet union.

In the presence of the problems created by this Soviet expansion, what could we expect of an international organization like the United Nations which was based on the assumed unanimity of the great powers? How could there be any unity about the way in which the United Nations was to fulfil its basic function and protect the security of its members when this Soviet communist expansion was the greatest threat to such security? Since we can find no immediate or satisfactory answer to these important questions we must consider how best to defend our own soil and maintain our heritage of liberty and law.