

these are to be attributed to the earlier administrations of the capitalist colonial powers. They contrast this with the boasted achievements of the Soviet Union, whether in science, technical progress, or the arts; all of which they falsely claim stem entirely from the revolution of 1917. The implication is that what Russia has done in less than forty years of communism, other countries can also do. For this purpose, they should be sensible enough to negotiate special trade assistance pacts and accept technical advice from the Soviet Union; aid given, so they claim, without any political strings attached whatsoever; no pressures to join regional security organizations or to lease bases, or to restrict their trade with other countries in certain commodities. All these pressures, so they try to point out, are left to the capitalist and "colonial" powers which had oppressed them in the past. Nor should we dismiss this appeal as absurd because we know it to be distorted and dishonest.

From all this you will, I think, realize that the entry of the Soviet bloc into the arena of competitive co-existence in the economic field is certain to provide us with many difficult problems.

We will also make a grave mistake if we assume with excessive self-confidence that these Soviet promises and pretensions will soon be exposed because they will not be able to make good their offers of trade and economic aid to the under-developed countries. They may be more successful in this regard than we expect.

We can, in any event, be quite sure that the Russians are sufficiently astute to gain the greatest possible political advantage from their various operations abroad, while insisting that what they offer and what they are prepared to do comes in a spirit of pure and unconditional benevolence. In short, we in the West are facing a long and difficult period of competitive co-existence in this as in other fields. The competition will be formidable in extent, and astute in its planning on the other side and is not likely to be conducted under Marquis of Queensbury rules. And the Communists think that they are going to win it.

One of the leaders in Russia told me when I was there last autumn that it was his conviction that we in the West were a pretty soft lot, and that we could not endure nearly so well as the Soviet people the rigors and the sacrifices which this competitive co-existence would involve. Indeed, this seems to be one of the strong convictions of the directors of Soviet policies. We should have no doubt that they will do everything within their power, short of atomic war, to prove that their convictions are valid, and their confidence justified.