

closeness and friendliness of our relations with France and the other free countries of Western Europe.

The year now ending has seen final solutions to very few of the problems that we face. But in several of them it has taken us forward, and kept open the road to further advances toward genuine peace. It has seen at least the partial realization of some of the plans and hopes of earlier years. These very achievements have, of course, brought with them new problems on which we must now set to work in the hope that a few years hence we may look back without reproaching ourselves for lost opportunities or lack of foresight. In world affairs it is rarely possible to say that an issue is settled and the books closed. Diplomacy is a continuing process; with the end of one problem often becoming the beginning of another. Our purposes should be to ensure that the process at least moves in the right direction! I think that in 1954 we have on the whole been doing that.

May 1955 bring to all of us real happiness, and may we make during the next twelve months genuine and steady progress towards an assured peace on earth to all men of goodwill.

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