

"A Communist Party which (to use Mr. Khrushchov's own phrase) is still at 'A' in the alphabet of government, opens its new programme with thousands of words of contemptuous abuse of Western systems of government, economies and efforts to build just and prosperous societies. Western society and forms of government are decadent, the programme assures us. They are wracked by contradictions and are doomed to failure and to disintegration.

"Mr. Khrushchov has ignored the mighty progress made by Western nations, even in the 45-year period of Communist dictatorship in Russia. He chose to ignore the advance in welfare, the cushions against economic hardship, the freely organized labour unions and the priceless intangibles of freedom of choice in the Western nations. His reference to the inevitable domination of Communism due to the structural faults of democracy ignores the flexibility of Western society.

FREE SERVICES FOR THE UNFREE

"He has promised the Soviet people many things, including free rent, free use of public transportation and free holiday camps. Nothing is said about the individual's freedom in the selection and use of these free services. The Russians are offered free travel without the freedom of travel. He has drafted plans for a house in which the landlord keeps the only key.

"Mr. Khrushchov must know by this time that we in the West are not going to lie down and roll over simple because he tells us in his party programme that we are done for. Let him not, as President Kennedy recently said, prepare a place on the Kremlin wall for the Western tiger-skin until he has caught the tiger.

"His own predictions of a Soviet paradise out-rivalling the West in production is based on the false assumption that we will be standing still.

"Instead of stressing contradictions in capitalist society, perhaps he should consider some glaring ones between the desire of Russian people for a better life and the doctrinaire demands of the party die-hards. While in China the Chinese are exhorted daily to work harder, sacrifice more and be prepared for struggles ahead, the Russians are promised a shorter work week and an easier life. Somewhere between Peiping and Moscow the wires of Communism are crossed.

FREEDOM OF WEST BERLIN

"The Soviet Union has declared its intention to sign a separate peace treaty with the East German regime and turn over to it all control of access to the city of Berlin unless a 'peaceful solution' with the West has been achieved by the end of this year. Thus Mr. Khrushchov says that, with a single stroke of his pen, he intends to terminate Western rights in the city which are based firmly upon wartime and post-war agreements, unless prior agreement is reached with his former allies. He cannot give away what he does not possess, and the right

to abrogate the responsibilities and rights in Berlin of his wartime allies' is one of those.

"It is on these responsibilities and rights that the freedom of the citizens of West Berlin largely depends. The people of West Berlin have on many occasions made clear their desire both for a democratic way of life and for the continued presence of the several Western garrisons in their city. The West does not intend to betray the trust placed in them by the citizens of West Berlin and by the free world generally by turning them over to the tyranny of Communist rule.

"To preserve Western rights in Berlin and the freedom of its citizens, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization has consulted and taken certain steps to strengthen its defensive capabilities. At the same time that it has demonstrated its determination through these defense measures, the West has by no means excluded the possibility of negotiation on the Berlin and German problems.

RESILIENT ALLIED POLICY NEEDED

"With a view to eventual negotiation, the West must pursue a policy which, while demonstrating the unity and the determination of the North Atlantic Organization to protect the freedom of the citizens of West Berlin, remains resilient and adaptable to changing conditions, without the sacrifice of principle. The coming months will be trying ones for the West. But, if the Western alliance maintains its unity and calm determination of purpose, there should be no need to fear for what lies ahead.

"The significance of the closing of the border on Sunday between East and West Berlin is receiving urgent study by the Government, and it would be inappropriate for me to make a detailed comment at this time.

"What is clear is that this Communist action adds a new and disturbing element to a situation which already holds dangerous possibilities. It is naturally a matter for serious concern when, by unilateral, illegal and provocative action, tension is increased greatly.

"Mr. Khrushchov and the Kremlin should by now have realized that the crisis which they have manufactured has had the effect, not of causing hesitation and disunity in the Western alliance, but of crystallizing Western strength and Western purpose. It is to be hoped that they will not mistake our determination for desperation, our defensive preparations for aggressive intent. Like any prudent householder, we are adjusting our insurance to the risks we must face.

"As Western nations prepare to engage in what is hoped will be positive and constructive negotiations, they are determined that the starting position will be one, not of uncertainty, panic and alarm, but of united resolution. Mr. Khrushchov should be in no doubt that this represents the free choice of all members of the NATO alliance, and that he will not succeed in any effort to undermine this purpose or to divert us from our determination to preserve the freedom of West Berlin and Western rights to access to the city.

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