

Its pillars are the Atlantic Pact, the Council for Europe and the various agencies of the "Marshall Plan". Almost every move in this effort of construction is new. Every fresh development demands a concentration of energy and purpose which it is difficult for democracies with their lax methods and easy-going traditions to sustain. Meanwhile, the Russians, who choose to see in the Atlantic world's regional effort a menace to the regionalization of Eastern Europe they carried through at break-neck speed after the war, are now bent on using every device of propaganda and pressure to prevent the completion of the structure. As the western powers toil painfully up and down the scaffolding, the Russians and their satellites stand on the other side of the fence, jumping up and down, whistling, chanting slogans, flinging a few stones and every now and then, advancing to the foot of the ladder to ask whether the weary builders will not come down for a nice cup of tea and a chat. It is all rather disturbing and at times tempting. But the western builders have only one duty -- which is to get the roof on to their building. Until they have accomplished so much, attention to what the Russians are doing is not only useless, it is a dangerous waste of time".

The way ahead is not easy, and it will require all the wisdom, strength, ingenuity and patience of which our democratic system is capable to overcome the difficulties that we shall encounter. But we have taken the measure of communism, both at home and abroad, we have discerned its purposes and revealed its methods, we have undertaken to meet its challenge. We will be successful in that undertaking if, but only if, we of the free democracies, in our domestic and in our international policies, act with unity of purpose, with imagination and with courage.

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