

At the same time, purposely, nothing is said about the fact that it was the Soviet Union which has repeatedly and persistently stood, and stands, for co-operation and peaceful coexistence, for outlawing all kinds of nuclear weapons, for ending their production, and for destroying the existing stocks of atomic and hydrogen bombs as well as rockets with nuclear charges of all ranges, including the intercontinental type. Great efforts are also being made to keep quiet about the fact that the Soviet Government, expressing the will of the peoples of the USSR, has stated solemnly that it has no intention of using any means of destruction if the Soviet Union is not attacked. It is also well known that the Soviet Union has never threatened, and does not threaten, the security of other states. Our country, as was stated many times, will never start a war against any country because war is foreign to the very nature of the Soviet state.

Despite the policy of peace and international co-operation which is persistently pursued by the Soviet Union and by the other Socialist states, the governments of the Western countries at the present time are adopting decisions aimed at continuing and increasing the policy "from positions of strength" and the "cold war" which is fraught with the most dangerous consequences. It is quite evident that the further stock-piling of atomic, hydrogen, and rocket weapons will increase the threat of a new war more and more.

Realizing the danger of the present situation and the fact that it may deteriorate further because of the plans for the preparation of a new war which are being drawn up by the NATO leaders, political and public men adhering to various political views, religious convictions, and philosophic schools, hundreds of millions of peoples in all countries of the world, persistently demand that an end be put to the arms race, that the policy of the "cold war" be done away with and, before it is too late, that the path of peaceful coexistence be entered upon, as only this path answers the requirements of the present moment in the life of mankind and can ensure the preservation of peace.

The Soviet Government proceeds from the fact that in the present situation the vital interests of the peoples demand the acceptance of all states of the principles of peaceful coexistence, mutual respect of territorial integrity and sovereignty, non-aggression, full equality and non-interference in the internal affairs of each other, equal rights and reciprocal benefits, a peaceful solution of the problems and differences which may arise. We are firmly convinced that if, in their foreign policy, all states would be guided by the main principle - the necessity of preserving and consolidating peace - and would not try to undertake any actions which could lead to increasing the military danger then it would be possible to make a turn toward improving the entire international atmosphere and toward creating the necessary conditions for a peaceful settlement of outstanding international issues.

If one proceeds from the interests of ensuring universal peace it is necessary, in our opinion, to recognize, unreservedly, the situation in the world when there are capitalist states and socialist states.

We, all of us, cannot but take into account that any attempts to change this situation by force from outside, to violate the present "status quo", to impose any territorial changes, would lead to catastrophic consequences.