

Atlantic treaty has brought and will bring increasingly as the delivery of arms and equipment goes forward. It is due also to the stimulus of economic aid from North America and to the revival of national energy and national spirit in those countries. They are still recovering from the shocks of war and of enemy occupation, but for a full return to strength there is one essential condition--there must be a sense of security.

Of course it is in the interests of the Kremlin to prevent those conditions from being fulfilled. Communist propaganda in those countries seeks to turn away men's thoughts from constructive activities and to create and maintain an atmosphere of fear and pessimism. Through exploiting the fear of war, the communists, under orders from Moscow, then launch "peace offensives" designed to weaken those essential defensive measures which their own aggressive policies make necessary--the same kind of peace offensive which is now being carried on in this country by the same kind of leadership and for the same purpose. In the European continent, whose inhabitants have vividly in their memories the full horrors of war, it is not hard to find soil in which to plant these propaganda seeds, but they fortunately have been prevented from growing in recent months through the growth of confidence in the countries concerned. We can, I think, be reasonably sure that these sinister plans will not have any success in our own country, even though they may deceive and confuse some sincere and well-intentioned people.

Communist plans in Europe have also to some extent been frustrated by their own crude and violent tactics. The workers, even the communist workers, are getting tired of being forced into political strikes and sabotage by a little group of Moscow-appointed leaders who always put the directive of the Kremlin before the interests of their own country and of the working class. While the communists are still strong in some of these western European countries, I think their game is becoming more and more apparent to the people. There are indications of this tendency in the defeat of the communists in the elections in Finland, and in the complete elimination of the communist candidates in the recent election in the United Kingdom.

No better evidence, in fact, could be found of the greater strength of the democratic forces in the western world than the present position of the communist party in countries which have free elections. From the high point of their influence in the period immediately following the war, these parties have rapidly diminished in numbers and in strength. This change was not brought about by suppression or persecution. The communists have been left to the judgment of the electors, and only when they have taken illegal action to betray their country, or to disturb the peace, have they suffered penalties under the law. This confidence in the free processes of democracy has, I think, been justified.

In the United Kingdom, for instance, during the recent election the communists were allowed to participate fully in the campaign. They were given free time on the government radio. They were given every opportunity to win votes. They made every kind of insidious appeal for such votes, from demanding higher wages for all, immediately, to pandering to the lowest form of anti-American prejudice. But what happened? By the will of the electors no single communist, nor communist sympathizer, has been returned to the British House of Commons. They polled an infinitesimal proportion of the vote and the great majority of them lost their deposits. Here is good evidence that in the face of outside danger, people in the free world can close their ranks.