

Communist sympathizers in the world are always right. If he clings to that attitude, there is, of course little hope that we can get beyond the stage of uneasy and distrustful watchfulness that now characterizes relations between Communist states and the rest of the world. But if he will admit for a minute the validity of some of our misgivings, then we might begin to take the first gradual steps towards understanding. It is in this hope that I proceed to tell him now some of the things that trouble us in the Western world when we look into those dark areas which are dominated by the Soviet Government, from which we are so systematically excluded, which we long to know but are prevented from knowing, with which we wish peace, but from which we receive a constant stream of abuse.

The first thing that must continually be in our minds is the attitude of the leaders of the Soviet State towards war. The philosophy of Communism, as we understand it, is based upon the theory that war between Communist States and the non-Communist world is inevitable. I know that leaders of the Soviet State from time to time deny this doctrine, and I should not be surprised to hear Mr. Vishinsky deny it again here.

At the same time, however, he will insist that the Soviet State is organized on the principles of Marx and on Lenin. And Lenin, in the Russian edition of his Collected Works, Volume XXIV, page 122, states:

"We are living not merely in a state, but in a system of states, and it is inconceivable that the Soviet Republic should continue to exist for a long period side by side with imperialist states. Ultimately one or the other must conquer. Meanwhile, a number of terrible clashes between the Soviet Republic and the bourgeois states is inevitable. This means that if the proletariat, as the ruling class, wants to and will rule, it must prove this also by military organization."

Unless, therefore, Mr. Vishinsky and his colleagues are prepared to state categorically that the Communist analysis of history and of the relations between Communist and non-Communist States is false, they must believe in their hearts that one day, if they ever get a chance, they will wage war upon the rest of the world. Take, for example, the following quotation, dated October 24, 1946, from the Soviet newspaper, Red Fleet, which, as Mr. Vishinsky well knows, speaks with an official voice in the U.S.S.R. in a way that no Western publication does for its government:

"...war finds its origin in class society founded on private property and...war will disappear only when private property and antagonistic classes are destroyed....As a consequence, the task of the Soviet people in the field of internal policy is to fight for the further increase of its economic and military might."

Those who really prepare for war are those who believe in its inevitability. We do not believe that war is inevitable: it is a basic principle of our political philosophy that there is no political problem which cannot be solved by discussion, by negotiation, by compromise, by agreement. According to our beliefs, war becomes inevitable only when some nation determines either that it will get what it wants or resort to force. We think the same way about civil war. Our domestic political system is based on the principle that no individual or group in the community will be permitted to have his way by force.

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