

This time last year we were still wondering to what extent the new masters of the Soviet Union proposed to follow in the footsteps of the old. During the year we learned that there were to be some interesting and important variations in tactics, although in strategy and in the basic aims of policy Mr. Malenkov and his associates do not appear thus far at least to have abandoned the dangerous paths of Marshal Stalin.

Until recently we have had to face heavy-handed Soviet policy of intimidation and threats. This has often had the useful result of consolidating the western world in resisting crude Soviet demands. It seems that now the men in the Kremlin are becoming more astute, and may be seeking to undermine democratic unity and to sap our strength by gestures for what they call "peaceful co-existence".

Perhaps this adventure of Moscow into more beguiling tactics is an acknowledgment on their part that the West was not to be intimidated. It is to be hoped that it will soon be realized also that we are not to be cajoled by words alone.

What we must still hope and work for, is a realization on the part of the Soviet leaders that words divorced from deeds will not do; that while we are neither to be frightened nor lulled into an abandonment of policy or principle, we are always prepared to consider at the conference table or through the normal diplomatic channels any legitimate and sincere proposal from them which might strengthen peace and security in the world.

It would be dangerous for the West not to be prepared for deceit, but it would be stupid not to take advantage of every reasonable opportunity for sincere negotiation. We cannot, even if we wanted to, wipe out our memories of Soviet obstruction to the humanitarian work of economic assistance since the end of the war; nor of the U.S.S.R.'s more open and forceful activity in the Berlin blockade; nor of its expansion and the overthrow of liberty all over Eastern Europe. But though we have learned to be cautious, we must never forget that the ultimate goal that we must continue to seek must involve not only co-existence, but the constructive co-operation, of all men.

Throughout the year, as previously, the United Nations has remained the basis of Canada's policy for seeking with other states solutions to international problems, just as NATO has been the foundation of our policy for collective defence.

Apart from these larger associations, we have had occasion more than once during the year in Canada to appreciate the value of our membership in the Commonwealth of Nations, an important part of which is its role in facilitating close and friendly relations with new democracies in Asia.

We have also had cause during the year to be thankful for the good neighbourhood between the United States and Canada, and for the continuing