

If these things are true, what then has changed and what basis for optimism or hope exists? I believe that, so long as we do not suffer from the illusion that Soviet foreign policy has undergone a basic change, it is possible to identify and to welcome certain modifications in the Soviet approach to international problems. There has been some recent concrete evidence to support this view.

It was a positive gain that, out of the talks which Mr. Khrushchov and President Eisenhower held at Camp David in September, the Soviet Government undertook to remove the pressure of a time element from the Berlin situation. It is now possible for the parties concerned in this dispute to approach a new stage of negotiation free from the shadow of an ultimatum. While no substantive advance towards a settlement of the Berlin issue was made, the Soviet Government evidently considered that it would be in its interest to remove a sore spot in its relations with the Western nations.

In his appearance before the United Nations, Mr. Khrushchov brought forward sweeping proposals on disarmament. Time alone will serve to test the real significance of that much advertised presentation, which left many questions unanswered. It may, however, be of some importance that in subsequent public statements Mr. Khrushchov has sought to counteract the impression that the Soviet Government would not agree to a realistic system of control and inspection in the implementation of disarmament measures. Progress on disarmament cannot be anything but slow, but we should not disregard the fact that the U.S.S.R. has agreed to participate in a committee of ten nations, including Canada, which will begin, after the New Year, to examine the whole range of disarmament problems. More recently the Soviet Government has agreed to co-operate in technical studies of United States data on the problem of detecting underground nuclear tests.

What is one to think of these developments in the field of disarmament? Perhaps the Soviet Government wants only to avoid being revealed as the stumbling block in negotiations. But again, the Soviet leaders now have the opportunity to demonstrate in concrete terms their desire for progress towards a world disarmament system.

Another example of the new atmosphere is to be found in Premier Khrushchov's speech of October 31 reporting to the Supreme Soviet on foreign affairs. Compared with previous Soviet statements on foreign policy, it was remarkable for its moderation. Four times Mr. Khrushchov acknowledged the need for mutual concessions if any progress was to be made in solving international problems. Once he went so far as to state that the Western nations had themselves already made concessions to