

GOVERNMENT



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ESSENTIALS OF PEACE

Text of statement delivered by Mr. L.B. Pearson
Secretary of State for External Affairs and Chairman of the
Canadian Delegation to the United Nations General Assembly,
in the Plenary Session on December 1, 1949.

The debate on this item which the Soviet delegation placed on the agenda of the Assembly -- and which is now coming to an end -- has ranged far and wide over the fields of history, philosophy and politics. It has explored communist dogma. It has led us through the intricacies of Soviet interpretation of their own foreign policy. It has presented us anew with the familiar, and to us unconvincing communist critique of the social, economic and political system of the non-communist world. It has also, of course, produced the usual rude charges that those of us who don't agree with this critique, are "ignoramuses", "senseless babblers", "professional slanderers", etc., etc.

The debate -- here and in the First Committee -- has also produced, among many other things, a great deal of confusion. Some of this is due to deliberate efforts to confuse. Some is due to the fact that the Communist delegations have presented us with contradictions and inconsistencies.

For instance, we have listened to Mr. Vishinsky denounce as useless the Kellogg Pact and, at the same time, urge in even more general and unspecific terms than those used twenty years ago, the adoption of a new pact amongst the five Great Powers. We have heard him tell us that Marx prophesied that a capitalist society led inevitably to crises which in turn led inevitably to war. The correctness of these prophecies, he said, could be read in history. On another occasion, however, Mr. Vishinsky, referring to the future of the non-Communist world, said, and I quote his words: "I am no prophet. Marx was no prophet either". On many occasions Mr. Vishinsky went to great lengths to deny the fear that the communist party believed in the inevitability of force and violence to bring about the social and political changes in which it believes. On another occasion, however, and again I quote his exact words, he said that, "now both in the United Kingdom and in the United States, the prior condition for any people's revolution is the destruction (not change, but destruction) of the governmental system set up in those countries before the Great War".

Yet, in the face of these words and others of the same kind used by contemporary communist leaders, in the face of the violent and warlike pronouncements of the Cominform, especially those hurled at the government of Yugoslavia, Mr. Vishinsky asks us to believe in the lamblike qualities of Russian revolutionary communism. Naturally we don't believe this, and we are not deceived by it. Nor are the peoples of the world deceived except those whose minds and souls are drugged and deadened by propaganda from a state machine which prevents them securing information from any other source; a machine, which when it sees fit, can alter for Soviet consumption even the text of speeches given here by the Foreign Minister of the U.S.S.R.

Communist delegations have been accusing us -- and I have been honoured by specific inclusion in this list -- of trying to divert attention