

The Soviet Government is exploiting in their propaganda the deepest human desire in the world today; the desire for peace. This propaganda is of course designed to induce people to believe that the Soviet Union is the proponent of peace and that we are the war-mongers. To give one example of this technique I may refer to the campaign which the Soviet Government has waged to prove that its offers to reach a settlement on the control of atomic weapons were fair and reasonable and were unjustifiably rebuffed. To anyone who knows the facts this is a fantastic distortion of the truth. Yet it has taken root in some minds.

On no point has Soviet propaganda been more insistent than that our Atlantic Treaty Organization is politically reactionary and militarily aggressive. The majority of our peoples believe nothing of the sort as their support of the Treaty proves, but that does not lessen the need for us to reaffirm at every convenient opportunity the defensive character of the Treaty and the fact that only openly aggressive character of Soviet policies is forcing us into these great expenditures and efforts for our common defence.

There is another side to our task in the field of political education. Not only do we have to define the values of our own society and comprehend the nature of the danger in which it stands. We have also to engage in the much harder task of never letting the submerged people of the totalitarian countries forget that there still is a free world in which the state is made for man and not man for the state; in which human rights and freedoms flourish. It is also important that they should understand that these liberties are not incompatible with expanding social benefits and economic security for the masses of our peoples.

I know that all these tasks are of the greatest difficulty and complexity, and I know of no easy way to accomplish them. I suggest, however, that we should set about them with faith and sense of conviction. I hope that we will make real progress towards this objective in the meetings we are having this week.

May I conclude by reading you a paragraph from a report which I received recently from the first Canadian diplomatic representative ever to present himself at the Khyber Pass.

"When we got there (the Afghan frontier) we found a chain across the middle of the motor road. On one side of the chain was an Afghan sentry and on the other, a Pakistan sentry. The Afghan sentry was armed to the teeth. He carried a rifle, had a helmet and wore around his waist several cartridge belts. I was not quite sure what would happen if I crossed the frontier. So, standing firmly on Pakistan territory, I held out my hand to the Afghan sentry. He turned out to be just a youngster. When I held out my hand and smiled, his military bearing collapsed. He rested his rifle on the ground, broke into a broad grin, and invited me to step over the chain. I did this and shook him warmly by the hand."

Difficulties on the border of a friendly and well-intentioned country are not, of course, analogous to those we have in dealing with unfriendly Communist despotisms. But one day - God willing - we will reach across the Iron Curtain - as Dave Johnson reached across the iron chain at the Khyber Pass. - and we will find beyond, the friendly smiles of millions of good people, now masked by the hideous iron of Communist repression and cruelty.

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