

Philosophically and ideologically, communism, far from being a new, permanent and revealing concept of life, is merely a narrow Western heresy, born amidst the abuses of the industrial revolution of the last century, and morally and, therefore, intellectually bankrupt.

There is no reason to believe that, considered in historical perspective, communism can long survive. Men are in their deepest natures moral beings to whom questions of good and evil are basic. But communism is fundamentally anti-moral. The very nature of man, therefore, makes it inevitable that sooner or later totalitarian and tyrannical regimes based on philosophies like communism either evolve or explode. If we remain strong and patient, therefore, we may before too long have something better to co-exist with than the international communism of today.

Quite apart from this fundamental point, the internal conflicts of interest, and the internal distrust of group for group, and of man for man, which one finds in any totalitarian society, is so great that ultimately such societies must change their nature or destroy themselves. The internal stresses and strains are such that sooner or later, it seems to me, the so-called monolithic societies of the totalitarians must crumble. So, though we must remain wary and alert, and take adequate precautions against the danger that they might burst outwards, we should also refuse to become panicky or too impatient as these inevitable historical processes are slowly working themselves out. We should also assist the process when that can be properly and wisely attempted.

As I see it, the answer to the question whether co-existence with communism is possible, lies basically in recognition of the simple fact that we have to share a planet, not with abstractions, but with fellow human beings, who have now learned the secret of destroying life itself on that planet. The real question, in fact, is not whether we can "co-exist", but whether we can prevent the unspeakable catastrophe of an atomic war, and ultimately find ways not merely of co-existing, but of co-operating with the peoples of Russia and China; without at the same time betraying our own principles, weakening our values, or sacrificing our security.

Every one of us - in Canada and every other free country, and in some form or another - has a responsibility to take part in the search for the right answer to that question, for in finding that right answer, not merely peace, but, literally, existence on this planet, is at stake.

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