

Mr. Spaak of Belgium put our feelings as eloquently and succinctly as they have ever been put when he said to the General Assembly in 1948:

"The Soviet delegate need not look for complicated explanations of our policy. I will tell him what is the basis of our policy - in terms, perhaps slightly cruel, but which only the representative of a small nation could use: Do you know what is the basis of our policy? It is fear of you, fear of your government, fear of your policy!" Then he went on:

"I use the word 'fear' but the fear I have in mind is not that of a coward or of a minister representing a frightened country, a country ready to ask for mercy and beg for pity. No, it is not that kind of fear. It is the fear which should be felt by a man when he peers into the future and realizes all the possible horror, tragedy and terrible responsibility held in store by that future.

"Does the U.S.S.R. delegation know why the Western European countries are afraid? They are afraid because the U.S.S.R. Delegation often speaks of imperialism.

"What is the definition and current notion of imperialism? It is usually the notion of a nation - generally a great power - that effects conquests and increases its influence throughout the world.

"What is the historic truth that has emerged from the recent years? It is that one great country alone has emerged from the war having conquered other territories - and that great country is the Soviet Union ..."

"The empire of the U.S.S.R. stretches from the Far East to the Baltic Sea and from the Black Sea to the Mediterranean, and is now also felt on the banks of the Rhine ... and then the U.S.S.R. wonders why the other nations feel anxious!"

The echo of those words of M. Spaak, spoken five years ago, has not faded from our minds.

With these fears still haunting us, and with the sure knowledge that weakness in this world is a provocation and not a protection, we intend to become strong and remain strong, until security can rest on a better and more lasting foundation even than strength.

I am aware, of course, that fear on one side often results in action which causes new fear on the other side; and that this provokes counter-action, which in its turn brings about even greater fear. So a vicious circle is begun, which goes on and on until it is either cut through in the right way, by sincere negotiation and wise political decisions, or in the wrong way, by war; which now means atomic annihilation.

If these are, then, the alternatives, and if by our policies we make the latter choice inevitable, then George Bernard Shaw was certainly right when he said: "If the other planets are inhabited, the earth is their lunatic asylum."

Yet, it is all too apparent that the tide of world affairs, for the past seven years, have been flowing in one direction - sometimes faster, sometimes slower, but always, unhappily in the direction of a possible catastrophe that might leave in the rubble little worth salvaging of what we