

There was another word we heard a lot in Russia; fear. We talk a lot, and with justice and with reality, about our fear of Communist imperialism. We have good reason to fear it by the record of the last ten years. They talk equally and emphatically of their fear, not only their fear of war but their fear of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization which they claim to be an aggressive anti-Soviet bloc; even more of their fear of the United States of America using this Organization for its own aggressive purposes.

They concentrate their fear on our neighbour to the south. It may well be that this fear is also genuine, among the people. They have no other source of information than that which is fed to them by the state in order to secure a particular result. Because they have no way of checking the truth of the information they get, it would be surprising if believing in or at least being exposed to that kind of propaganda, they did not fear the United States.

Their ignorance of the Western world, and especially of North America, is total and dangerous. If somehow we could remove that ignorance, as I said earlier, and get into contact with the people through honest, genuine information, things would be a lot better.

The leaders, however, who do not have to believe their own propaganda, claim that they also fear the United States. Every time I got into an argument with one of them on this score and it was one of our favourite subjects for argument, he would pull out of his pocket some press clipping which would be based on a Tass despatch from the United States or Canada and which stated that somebody over here had said that we are going to do something very unpleasant to the Russians. These despatches would be edited, I suppose, and the effect they would create among the people would be bad. Even the leaders might be impressed by certain talk in the States and in other Western countries. It is just possible therefore, though not probable, that their fear might be genuine. You see it is very difficult for a Communist leader, or a Communist follower, to believe that anything that appears in a newspaper is not from an official source, and inspired by the Government of the country.

It is also just possible that they may, by a process of auto-intoxication, have come to believe their own propaganda which is based on creating fear of the United States. Or it may be that these people are just trying to rationalize and justify their own aggressive policies by trotting out this fear bogey of the United States and the Western world which has caused so much alarm. But whatever the reason is, their ignorance, genuine or calculated, is one of the most dangerous factors in the present situation.

I know of no better illustration of this than the present visit to India and Burma of these two Soviet leaders - Marshal Bulganin and Mr. Khrushchev. Statements which they have been making in India and Burma display an ignorance and insult the intelligence of the people whom they are addressing and whose guests they are. For instance, when Mr. Khrushchev said, and he is a very frank