

one speaker during the conference that, while Soviet strategy remains unchanged and unchanging, Soviet tactics were flexible and provided for retreat as well as for attack.

The words of a former Secretary-General of the Communist International, written years ago, but still true today, were recalled.

"We are sometimes accused of departing from our Communist principles." - said M. Dimitroff then - "What stupidity! What blindness! We should not be Marxist and Leninist revolutionaries, nor disciples of Marx, Engels, Lenin and Stalin if we were not capable of completely altering our tactics and our mode of action as circumstances may dictate. But all the deviations and all the ins and outs of our tactics are directed to a single end, the world revolution".

Thus we concluded that, while the NATO countries should be prepared to meet any genuine move towards conciliation half way, as, indeed, they always have done, we should do nothing which would leave us weaker if the mailed fist has only been withdrawn to strike at the free world with greater force at a more convenient time.

It was in the light of this discussion, that the Council reaffirmed the policy of collective defence which has proved fully justified and which has been responsible for the growing confidence of the free world. We must, at the same time, look forward to the day when we can put aside our arms, and take up the great tasks of national and international collaboration and construction which lie to hand, and which alone can make the North Atlantic community a reality. We must work for that day, but we will not bring it about by weakening our defences now under the softening influence of works alone.

That was the main conclusion reached at Paris. As a result of this meeting, I am more than ever convinced that while the United Nations is still our best hope for the solution of international problems and for international progress on a world scale, NATO is the most important and far-reaching development of our time for the organization of security and the defence of peace in the West.

I hope we will not forget this - as we become more and more accustomed to NATO's existence and if the feeling of crisis and tension should seem to lessen in the world.