

put a stop to them. Perhaps the greatest danger to world peace at this moment is that limited wars may begin or continue, with the ever present possibility that they will spread like a bush fire until the conflagration is general and then the bomb is dropped.

Against this gradual or accidental war it is the duty of diplomacy and wise policy to protect us. In recent years lines have been drawn across a great many maps; Korea and Indochina are two examples. More such lines remain to be drawn to mark off the areas where shooting is, by agreement, out of season and violators will, by agreement, be prosecuted. Defiance of the agreement must be met by force but violators will know from the beginning what the consequences may be.

This of course is not a very satisfactory state of affairs. For one thing, it means that we must keep our defences strong, our guard up; and that a great part of our energies and our resources cannot be left free for our own peaceful development. This is what is called in diplomatic language a modus vivendi, "a means of living". It is a far cry from "a way of life".

But is war between the great powers of the world can be avoided, not by compromise on principles but on an understanding of the consequences of war, then I believe time is on our side if we use it. As it becomes apparent that neither side is going to try to impose its will on the other by force, the tense peace, imposed by the awe of hideous destruction, but which is after all far removed from real peace, may relax to the point where such real peace may be achieved; where co-existence - a sterile concept - may become co-operation. After all, violence is the chosen method for the advancement of communism, and without the threat of violence that ideology would hold no terrors for us. Our method is peaceful persuasion and perhaps we are approaching a juncture in history when violence might seem less attractive to its devotees than discussion and agreement. We must work on in that hope; never give up. Otherwise at worst we will descend to the depths of destruction of nuclear war; or at best we will keep living in that twilight zone in which peace - such as it is - will depend, not as of old on a balance of power, but on a balance of terror.

It can be seen that whatever happens we will need, in the trying circumstances that we face, strong nerves, and deep faith; great wisdom and patience and understanding. And we will have to shape our education and our teaching more than ever to these ends.