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DIPLOMACY FOR PEACE

In an address delivered on June 18 at the Commencement Service of Wayne State University, Detroit, Michigan, the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Paul Martin, took as his subject what he called "peace diplomacy", since, he said, the only other variety "would have to be called 'suicide diplomacy'". Mr. Martin developed his theme as follows in part:

...I would go so far as to say that, since the Cuban confrontation in October 1962, there is a good deal of evidence to suggest that the Russians have also come to pretty much the same conclusions about nuclear warfare as you and we have. But there is one major grouping, the Chinese Communists, that have not come to these sensible conclusions. No doubt they would agree that nuclear warfare is clearly undesirable, but the risk is by no means excluded by a regime whose leader, Mao Tse-tung, in 1957 analyzed the problem in this way. He looked back to the First World War and pointed out that after it was over the Soviet Union and about 200 million Communists had emerged. After the Second World War, according to his analysis, the Communist world had grown to 900 million. Therefore, he goes on, after the Third World War the same trend will probably be accentuated, and there will then not be enough non-Communists left to matter very much. So he foresees, if there is another war, the emergence of a Communist civilization. This is a concept which even Mr. Khrushchov has derided as recently as January last year, when he scoffed at those who dreamed of

building a Communist world "on the ruins of a world deserted and poisoned by nuclear fallout".

MISLEADING EFFECT OF OLD LABELS

In addition to disagreeing with the Russians about the unacceptability of nuclear war, the Chinese Communists, it is now apparent, are actually engaged in a determined take-over bid to wrest the leadership of the Communist parties, at least of Asia and Africa, away from the Russians. In these circumstances you see how misleading it is for our diplomacy and our thought to be shackled with the old labels that we still use too often, such as "East and West", when the reality is that we are today dealing with at least two Communist worlds, not one. Even with regard to the Soviet world, there is, in fact, a great deal more diversity, just as there is in the West, than we could ever have expected a few years ago.

In objecting that the term "East-West relations" is no longer adequate, I am not merely playing with words. The words are not important in themselves. But by sticking to a phrase that has outlived its usefulness we limit or distort our thought, often unconsciously; ideas are very important, in diplomacy and, indeed, in the world. One aspect of diplomacy is the battle for the minds of men; and that battle is fought with ideas. Therefore, let us make sure our weapons, our ideas, are not obsolete.

The "Iron Curtain" is another conventional diplomatic tag in need of revision. For 15 years after the war it conveyed vividly a bitter truth. Even today,

(Over)