

Since Mr. Vishinsky has raised this question of the basic principles necessary for peace, I must take this occasion to tell him that a major contribution which his government can make, is the disbandment of their fifth columns in other countries. It is abhorrent that any group of rulers should seek to dominate the minds and souls of men, and to demand that complete subservience which is due only to God. For the Russian people, who suffer under this domination, we must all feel pity. But when these Russian rulers extend their pretensions to other lands, and seek to claim the subservience of the citizens of other countries, these pretensions become a threat to the peace of the world.

We must take this occasion also to tell Mr. Vishinsky that we in the west view with growing alarm the effects of a totalitarian Communist philosophy which shuts its people off as much as possible from contacts with the rest of the world. I know that Mr. Vishinsky will tell us that the Soviet Government secludes its people because it does not like the kind of thing which happens in the Western countries and wishes to protect them from these things which it regards as evil. I cannot believe, however, that the Soviet leaders really have so little confidence in the judgment of their own people. I can only conclude, therefore, that the Russian Government finds it necessary to give to the people of Russia a completely false impression of the Western world. The only way it can get its people to accept this false impression is by shutting them off from all normal contacts with the outside world. Consequently it goes to enormous lengths to prevent its own people from leaving the Soviet Union, to prevent people from outside the Soviet Union from entering that country, to exclude from normal contacts with the Russian people even the people of the neighbouring states which it regards as friendly, such as Poland and Roumania. The Soviet Government obstructs the movement of journalists and diplomats in the Soviet world, it permits them to move only under strict limitations. It excludes the ordinary traveller. A visitor from Russia may move freely in my country, but no private visitor from Canada can even set foot within the boundaries of the Soviet Union, except in the most unusual circumstances. The ordinary citizen of the Soviet Union is denied the opportunity to read our books, to listen to our philosophers, to study our scientists, to find out for himself what the West is like. If Mr. Vishinsky is concerned about the preparations of a new war, he should remember that war grows out of fear and fear out of ignorance. The ignorance which lies within the shadow of the iron curtain is as great a menace to peace as anything in the world today. The Government of the U.S.S.R. in the most deliberate manner is misleading its people in regard even to the most elementary facts concerning life in the western world. It is systematically portraying the democracies as determined to launch a war upon the Soviet Union. It is planting fear and hatred in the hearts of its people. It is giving these people no opportunity to correct the false picture of the world which they are being given. It is denying to the peoples of the free world, by the most systematic and far-reaching and overpowering censorship in history, the right to speak to the Russian people and to tell them of our great and genuine desire to live at peace with the people of the Soviet Union. Our basic differences are not with the Russian people themselves, of whom there are about 194,000,000 but mainly with about 3 per cent of that number who belong to the Communist party. Peace in the world, when it has existed, has been based on a community of interests amongst individual men and women which led them to adjust their differences by peaceful means. The Government of the U.S.S.R. seems determined to deny to its people the right to belong to the world community which is now rapidly developing not only amongst the nations of the world, but also amongst the individual people of the world themselves. We cannot build peace on a foundation of mistrust and fear. By continual distortion the Government of the U.S.S.R. is creating in the minds of its people a false distrust and fear of the peoples of the West. This debate itself is an attempt to stimulate such emotions. The peace of the world would really be served if, as a result of the debate, Mr. Vishinsky would return to his people and say to them "Let us build upon whatever basis of confidence there is" instead of telling them that fear and mistrust alone prevail.

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