

"The Commonwealth now embraces ten nations, including the United Kingdom, all of them free and voluntary members from all the continents, comprising one-fifth of the world's population and representing virtually every race, colour, and creed. We are united not by the sword or by the seal but by the spirit of co-operation and by common aspirations; and the process is a continuing one. Within the next week another country, Nigeria, the most populous in Africa, will attain its independence and remain in the Commonwealth family.

SOVIET COLONIES

"Indeed, in this Assembly the membership is composed in a very considerable measure of the graduates of empires, mandates and trustee-ships of the United Kingdom, the Commonwealth and other nations. I pause to ask this question: How many human beings have been liberated by the U.S.S.R.? Do we forget how one of the postwar colonies of the U.S.S.R. sought to liberate itself four years ago, and with what results? I say that because these facts of history in the Commonwealth and other countries invite comparison with the domination over peoples and territories, sometimes gained under the guise of liberation, but always accompanied by the loss of political freedom. How are we to reconcile the tragedy of the Hungarian uprising in 1956 with Chairman Khrushchov's confident assertion of a few days ago in this Assembly? Mr. Khrushchov said:

'It has been and always will be our stand that the peoples of Africa, like those of other continents striving for their liberation from the colonial yoke, should establish orders, in their countries of their own will and choice.' That I accept -- and I hope that those words mean a change of attitude for the future on the part of those he represents.

"What of Lithuania, Estonia, Latvia? What of the freedom-loving Ukrainians and many other Eastern European peoples which I shall not name for fear of omitting some of them? Mr. Khrushchov went further and said:

'Complete and final elimination of the colonial regime in all its forms and manifestations has been prompted by the entire course of world history in the last decades...'

NO DOUBLE STANDARD

"There can be no double standard in international affairs. I ask the Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the U.S.S.R. to give to those nations under his domination the right of free elections -- to give them the opportunity to determine the kind of government they want under genuinely free conditions. If those conclusions were what his words meant, for they must apply universally, then indeed will there be new action to carry out the obligations of the United Nations Charter; then indeed will there be new hope for all mankind.

"My hope is that those words of his will be universally acceptable and that he will give the lead towards their implementation here and now.

RESUME NEGOTIATION

"I wish now to say a few words on East-West relations. A year ago we had great hopes. There seemed to be a promise of a decisive change in relations among the great powers. We, the smaller powers and the middle powers, find ourselves in the position of trying to make our contribution to removing fear and distrust, to bring about mutual understanding and co-operation. The Ten-Nation Committee began its work. Until the failure of even the opening of the Summit Conference, there were high expectations. Then came the collapse of that conference. Then there was the withdrawal of the U.S.S.R. from the disarmament negotiations in June. Then came those propaganda attacks in degree and intensity during this summer, the very violence of which must naturally lead to the view that various issues were being deliberately exploited for the express purpose of raising tension. With mankind waiting for us to act, what good can there come from threats to rain rockets or nuclear bombs on other countries, large or small, to despatch so-called volunteers into situations already dangerously inflamed, to encourage political leaders to follow the line of extremism? Mankind, the peoples of all the nations, are fearful and anxious, and these fears and anxieties aggravate the tensions. I ask for a return immediately to the path of negotiation. It is the only course that the great powers should follow. It is incumbent on this United Nations General Assembly to press for the resumption of negotiations, particularly regarding those main issues which divide the U.S.S.R. and those associated with it from the Western powers. That is the paramount issue of this Assembly, disarmament. The Canadian Government takes its stand on behalf of full disarmament, to be assured by effective control and inspection. The major powers today possess the nuclear capacity for mutual destruction and to annihilate all. We, the middle powers and the smaller powers, cannot remain silent. We would be the hopeless victims of any nuclear catastrophe that takes place. Quite apart from our instinct for self preservation, mankind knows of the futility of wanton waste. Without a return to negotiations, we cannot hope to arrest the arms race, we cannot hope to still the process of armaments and continuing armaments. The tragedy of the ten-power negotiations was that the breakdown occurred at a time when there was an appreciable narrowing of the gap between the Soviet and Western positions. I wrote to Mr. Khrushchov on June 30, I suggested then a return to the negotiating table. The unanimous voice of the Disarmament Commission in that regard has been disregarded, for in August it called for the earliest possible continuance