

There is plenty of evidence that communist dictatorships inevitably tend to expand, and that as they do, they will destroy the "co-existing" possibilities of free regimes in other countries wherever and whenever they think they can get away with it. It is something to remember.

The moral of this is plain, that adequate defensive strength and eternal vigilance is the price to be paid for "co-existence". In the world in which we live it is dangerous to try to secure it on lesser terms. You can't get security, in present circumstances, by a small down payment.

If we lack power and vigilance, if we become careless and disunited in the free world, "co-existence" could soon be replaced by "non-existence". But if we follow steadily but persistently the other course, peace through defensive collective strength, and patient, persistent diplomacy, I don't see why we shouldn't continue to exist indefinitely alongside the communist world.

There is, I think, because of our growing collective strength, less danger at this time of a deliberate frontal aggression than a few years ago.

The Soviet leaders are realists. They know that such an attack would be met by swift and annihilating atomic retaliation, which would leave their great cities in ruins. For this reason, they may be quite sincere when they advocate co-existence in present conditions, because they know that the alternative in case of war is co-destruction.

But they undoubtedly also hope that we may ourselves weaken the strength, unity and resolve that make co-existence as essential for them - as for us. They will certainly do their best to encourage us in this suicidal tendency.

Even, however, if we can successfully hold off deliberate and full-scale aggression, war could come in one of two other ways. It could come by accident or miscalculation; a war which neither side intends, but which might result from a misunderstanding of current moves, and a tragic misinterpretation of each other's intentions.

This could happen. To avoid it we should, among other things, keep our diplomacy active and flexible; keep open the channels of communication and contact such as the United Nations, and remove, where we can, barriers, including psychological barriers, to understanding. No easy task - indeed, an all but impossible task, when you are dealing with communist states but one which we should never, I believe, abandon.

We should also do our best to find out what is the purpose and plan of the potential adversary in every move he makes. But what is even more important, we should leave him in no doubt about our own policy; about what is in our own minds. This means, of course, that we of the free world should know our own minds and follow, together, a policy which is broad principle, objectives and basic purposes, is steady, fixed and firm.