

When you see and hear people like that, when you listen to people in the cities of Stalingrad and Leningrad which suffered so much from war, listen to them talk about their passion for peace, it is very difficult not to believe in their sincerity. I am sure they are genuine in that belief.

But I do not get very much comfort out of that because a passion for peace among the people (and the people in all countries want peace) is not very important unless it can express itself in political action, in policies on the part of those who govern the people. Therefore, it is far more important to try to answer the more difficult question. Do the small closely knit group (at least closely knit at present) which governs these 175 million people, do they want peace? If so are they trying to put into effect policies that make for peace? That is the question that means so much and they have the right to ask the same question of us. Indeed they asked it of me several times.

When they talked about peace and tried to tell me it was their only desire, I was not as convinced as I was about the feeling of the people themselves. Yet I think it is probably true that they do desire peace, I am talking of the rulers now, or at least a peaceful interlude. I have come to that conclusion because of two factors. One is that when the two men who are running Russia now, (they say all are equal in the Russian politbureau but I should say the two who are "more equal" than the others are Mr. Khrushchev and Mr. Bulganin) claim their devotion to peace, they may really want a peaceful interlude because they are hard, realistic men, not suicidal fanatics like Hitler, and they know that the alternative of peace if it takes the form of World War III is hydrogen extermination.

They have the hydrogen bomb - they told me about it. They know the effect of the hydrogen bomb. They know the Americans could create the same effect from their bombs. So I suspect they do not want that kind of alternative to peace.

There is another reason. Mr. Khrushchev said to me on more than one occasion - "We want peace because we can win the conflict between the two systems, your system and our system, without war. So if the communist system will prevail without war, we would be very stupid to go to war."

If they feel that way, if they have that confidence, and they make great profession of that confidence, it is up to us to show them that it is not justified: that in this struggle of competitive coexistence which we are facing, their system will not prevail.

We know our system is stronger. We know it deep down in our hearts - because it is based on the free man. But by that very token they say they will prevail because our freedom in the Western world is degenerating into license and luxury and laziness. Their system, based on total control and 100% discipline produces a people who are patient, strong and willing to accept sacrifices for the state. Again it is up to us to prove that they are wrong.