

As somebody has put it - I think it was Mr. Attlee, we have the freedom to make decisions which govern our lives, they have freedom from the necessity of making decisions. There are people, I fear who get as much comfort out of that kind of freedom as the other. It is one of the tasks of free democracies to keep to a minimum that kind of person in the state.

Another impression I got was that, because of state control of the mass media of propoganda and communication, and this is not so difficult to understand in a totalitarian despotic government, they have built up in many of their people great pride in their state accomplishments. This is something which we are inclined to ignore, but which was driven in on us all the time.

Furthermore the people -- (I am not talking about the group that is governing the people) claimed to have a passionate desire for peace.

When in Moscow we expressed a wish to go to a Protestant church service. It was only necessary to express that kind of wish to have it met, so we were taken on Sunday evening to a Baptist Church. That church was almost as crowded as this room; indeed even more so because there were so many people they could not sit down. I could not flatter myself that it was due to my presence because they did not know that any visitors from the West were coming. But when I was led into the church, not through the front door because we couldn't get in that way, but through the back door, I was put in the pulpit with the Minister. When we entered they were singing a hymn and when they had stopped the Minister began to speak in Russian. Our Ambassador who speaks Russian very well, said "He is introducing you". There was a certain flutter of excitement among the congregation. Then the Ambassador said "Do you know what he is saying now". I replied, "How should I know, I don't understand Russian". Mr. Watkins said, "He is telling them you are going to preach to them." "Well", I said, "you had better tell them that I am not." He replied, "You will have to say something because he has told them that you would preach and it would be very disappointing." After all my father was a minister and my grandfather also, so I ought to be able to preach a sermon, quite apart from the fact that I am a politician. So I felt I ought to do something about it. I had also this advantage, I would say a few words and then they had to be translated into Russian. So this gave me a little time to think what the next few words would be.

I thought, looking into the faces of these people -- strong, patient, good faces; mostly, but not all, of elderly people, that a safe text to use in talking to this Russian congregation would be "Blessed is the Peacemaker". I assure you it was a safe and satisfactory text.

After I finished my few remarks they spontaneously broke into a hymn, the tune of which I very well knew. They sang it in Russian but the words, when translated, were "Rescue the Perishing". I am not sure therefore whether my sermon had been a success or not!