

the reality is that we are today dealing with at least two Communist worlds, not one. Even with regard to the Soviet world, there is, in fact, a great deal more diversity, just as there is in the West, than we could ever have expected a few years ago.

In objecting that the term "East-West relations" is no longer adequate, I am not merely playing with words. The words are not important in themselves. But by sticking to a phrase that has outlived its usefulness we limit or distort our thought, often unconsciously; ideas are very important, in diplomacy and indeed in the world. One aspect of diplomacy is the battle for the minds of men; and that battle is fought with ideas. Therefore let us make sure our weapons, our ideas, are not obsolete.

The "Iron Curtain" is another conventional diplomatic tag in need of revision. For 15 years after the war it conveyed vividly a bitter truth. Even today, if you were to visit Berlin as I did last month, you would see the Wall - that horrible monument to the failure of the Communist system, erected to make it easier to shoot people fleeing to freedom from East Berlin. The Communists could not accept the scandal that 2,000 to 4,000 of their people each week should be risking their lives to get out of the "People's Paradise". So they built the Wall; and it is indeed an Iron Curtain of barbed wire and blood.

#### Rust on the Iron Curtain

However, I think we can all rejoice that elsewhere the Iron Curtain is getting pretty rusty in spots - so much so that it is no longer a very apt description of the frontiers which divide the Western world from the European Communist countries. That there are still important barriers, no one would deny; but there is no longer today the impenetrable wall that the term Iron Curtain suggests. Indeed, there is now a passage of persons and ideas, both ways, sufficient to make Stalin turn over in his second resting place.

Another term we might think about bringing up to date is the expression "satellites" used to describe the countries which are supposed to be cringing behind the Iron Curtain. It suggests regimes of slavish obedience to Moscow, who follow every dictate of the master's voice in every aspect of their internal and foreign policy - in other words, a group of countries marked by a uniformity which blots out such national characteristics as at one time existed. If this was ever true, it is certainly much less apparent today, though it would, of course, be an exaggeration to assert that the Eastern European regimes have wide freedom of action or that their leaders (as distinct from their peoples) wish to break away from the U.S.S.R., though Tito may not be the last to make the break. These countries are linked by a military treaty with the Soviet Union; their economic systems are closely integrated; and they profess the same kind of Communist credo as the Soviet Union. Nevertheless, within these limits, in the last few years the Eastern European countries have applied - and have been allowed to apply - their Communism in a way which takes into account more than heretofore the differing conditions and national characteristics of the peoples concerned. They have also been allowed more trade and other contacts with the West.