

We therefore all agreed to the terms of the Charter, though it did contain those controlling provisions in favour of the Great Powers, which I have already referred to.

Of course, we signed the Charter and recommended it to our respective Parliaments, only after we had been assured that this exorbitant veto power accorded to each of the Big Five was not apt to be used except when the user honestly felt that it was really in the best interest of international peace and security to do so.

On the other hand, we already had some indication that, in the view of the Russian rulers, no international problem could be properly settled without their concurrence nor against what they might feel to be national interests of the U.S.S.R. We did not know, however, to what extent they would feel that the national interests of the U.S.S.R. were different from the general interests of all humanity in the maintenance of international peace and security.

Since San Francisco, however, the Russian representatives have used the veto twenty times and have made it quite clear that they consider it to be essential to the national interests of the Soviet Union that whatever they call the "imperialistic policies" of the United States, and the United Kingdom, and all the other members of the United Nations with the exception of their own satellites be systematically thwarted and frustrated.

This attitude is becoming more clearly defined and more aggressively asserted every day. I think we may take it that the declaration issued by the recent conference of European Communist Parties fairly states the Russian attitude. You will remember that this declaration sets out that, although during the war the powers allied against the Axis marched together and created one camp, even during the war there existed a difference in that camp, both with regard to war aims and to the tasks of the post-war reconstruction of the world.

The declaration asserted that the Soviet Union for the democratic countries considered the fundamental aims of war to be the creation and strengthening of democratic regimes in Europe and the liquidation of fascism, whilst the United States and, in agreement with them, the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth countries had as their aim in war the elimination of Germany and Japan as competitors in world markets and the strengthening of their own dominant positions.

The declaration went on to say that opposing political lines were formed; on the one hand, the policy of the U.S.S.R. and the democratic countries aiming at the destruction of imperialism and the strengthening of democracy and, on the other hand, the policy of the United States and Britain aimed at the strengthening of imperialism and the stifling of democracy. It stated that the struggle between these two opposing camps shows that capitalism is now losing its grip and that socialism and democracy are gaining strength.

It asserted that for this reason, the imperialistic camp and its leading force, the United States, are displaying a particularly aggressive activity and that this activity is being developed simultaneously in many directions, the Truman-Marshall plan being only one component part, the European section, of a general plan of world-expansionist policy which is being carried on everywhere. This plan is supposed to call for the economic and political enslavement of Europe by United States imperialism to be followed by that of China, Indonesia and the South American countries.

The declaration even asserted that the aggressors of the last war, the capitalist magnates of Germany and Japan, are being prepared by the United States for a new role as a weapon of its own imperialistic policy in Europe and Asia. All this is said to be concealed behind a "liberal pacific mask calculated to deceive and catch people inexperienced in politics."