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America's Foreign Policy

"WAR in our time", President Eisenhower informed the American Society of Newspaper Editors, "has become an anachronism". This was what the Heads of State realised during the "summit" Conference in Geneva a year ago. Much has happened in the last twelve months. But President Eisenhower now informs the world that recent events do not justify any fundamental change in America's foreign policy. America's allies think otherwise. Britain wants freer trade to ensure world prosperity. She opposes America's insistence on military security as the only way to world peace. But the dissensions within the party in power prevent Britain from pursuing firm and independent foreign policy. France is no less dependent on America than Britain. But her Socialist government has had the courage to disown openly America's foreign policy.

Washington remains adamant. President Eisenhower has doubts whether the recent changes in the Soviet Union have any real significance. He may be right in his suspicion that the one-man rule has been replaced by "collective" dictatorship. His aversion to dictatorship will be shared by all those with democratic leanings. But critics will retort that if America is eager to cultivate friendly relations with Spain or Portugal, she can have no objection to establish amicable relations with the Soviet Union, even if President Eisenhower's assumption that the Russian regime is dictatorial is true. Non-interference in the internal affairs of any country is an essential condition of co-existence. In advocating peaceful co-existence, Russia does not expect the Western Powers to disown capitalism or their form of government. America, therefore, can have no right to expect Russia to jettison Communism or to change the form of government in Russia as a pro-condition to peaceful co-existence. President Eisenhower is, therefore, irrelevant in his reference to the form of government in the Soviet Union in his observations on world problems.

President Eisenhower does not believe that the Soviet Union desires peace. Stalin has been denounced. But "much of Stalin's foreign policy remains unchanged". Continued partition of Germany, continued subjection of the "satellite" nations of Eastern Europe and the continued division of Korea are cited as some of the instances which indicate that Russia does not intend "to provide a real basis for stable and enduring relations". This is poor logic. These are some of the major world issues in dispute. To solve these disputed issues both sides will have to make concessions. America, President Eisenhower assures the world, is ever ready to explore all avenues to solve these problems.

Moscow has, similarly, informed the world repeatedly that Russia is sincere in her desire for peaceful co-existence. Despite these mutual assurances, world issues in dispute remain unsolved. President Eisenhower's argument is that no agreement with Russia is possible as long as she does not prove her sincerity. To such barren arguments M Mollet, the Socialist Premier of France, will retort that the Western Powers can help Moscow to adopt a constructive policy to world affairs by pursuing a conciliatory attitude to Russia.

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