

Democracies Must Find Wise Way To Deal Current, Strong Soviet Propaganda Machine

By DeWitt John
In The Christian Science Monitor

One of the long-range problems of building a peaceful world is that of dealing wisely with the current program of the Soviet propaganda machine.

Herein lies a problem for peace because (1) all Soviet propaganda broadly follows a single, official "party line;" (2) it comprises virtually the only information available to most Russians, and (3) it presents what can only be described as a distorted caricature picture of the outside world, effect of which is to stir suspicion and not to promote understanding.

Little children, young people, and adults—all the 200,000,000 people in the Soviet Union—are being indoctrinated deeply and incessantly with this distorted portrayal of other countries through press, radio, film, books, plays, schools, lectures. The question unavoidably arises as to how deep in Soviet thinking may be the resulting fear, suspicion, and resentment, in the crucial years ahead.

The question arises, also, whether it is possible to establish a stable world order on a basis other than mutual understanding between the Russian and American peoples?

Few informed observers believe the Kremlin has geared its postwar propaganda machine to a program of distortion and vituperation for the deliberate purpose of making war, as did the Nazi leadership in Germany. On the contrary, most authorities judge that the Kremlin is seeking to unify its people, to smother opposition, to prepare its people defensively for any possible emergencies in a world of "encircling" capitalist powers, and to gain bargaining advantage.

That is an important distinction: Present-day Russia does not want war. But this fact does not wholly neutralize the destructive, divisive implications of a propaganda program which is tending to widen a psychological gulf between the Russians and other countries.

Pioneer Pravda, Russian children's newspaper, said on the anniversary of Thomas A. Edison recently that Edison "was ready to invent deadly weapons because of his love for America," adding: "Thus capitalism corrupts and diverts into improper channels the military genius of a

scientist."

Thus the deep humanitarianism of this great inventive genius is ignored. Attention of the Russian children is directed away from the American inventor's uplifting and liberating contribution to humanity, and from the benevolence of his personal character. Such interpretations hardly could help future citizens and leaders of Russia to understand the United States.

Speaking to grownups, the Soviet Government newspaper *Izvestia* recently asserted that Canada was turning over territory and its army to the United States "in preparation for an aggression."

No voice was raised in the Russian press to counteract this charge of aggressive intentions. The Russian people heard no balancing evidence, no counter facts that United States-Canadian plans might be purely defensive. On the contrary, Russian newspapers for months have been asserting that the United States, especially the Republican Party as represented by Senator Arthur Vandenberg, is advocating "a consistent, frank program of imperialist expansion."

Soviet reports on economic conditions in the United States likewise bear little more than an incidental relation to the facts. Yuri Zhukov, Pravda correspondent, recently reported from New York: "The wages of the laboring people do not even provide a living minimum. Eighty per cent of the workers of the U. S. A. don't have a living minimum."

Such Russian statements concerning the United States, Canada, Great Britain, and their various interests and activities the world over can be duplicated almost ad infinitum. Equally slanted information fills the Russian bill of fare concerning the rest of Europe and Asia, including the satellite countries within the Soviet orbit—as witness Ilya Ehrenberg's recent book "European Crossroad," on the Balkans.

But to deplore such statements is not enough, dealing wisely with Soviet propaganda is the challenge. Perhaps the most effective possible measure would be for the United States to reach a general settlement with the Soviet Union, disposing of major outstanding questions including that of propaganda warfare. Efforts of American diplomacy to accomplish such a settlement need to be

encouraged. Meanwhile, American citizens can vigorously support the information program of the State Department, which includes daily radiocasts to Russia and distribution of a picture magazine in the Soviet Union. Improvement, not curtailment is needed in this program.

Americans can demand continuance of a strong, vigorous, balanced bipartisan foreign policy. The United States cannot afford the luxury of disunity.

That current Soviet propaganda is a disturbing, disruptive element in the world picture seems scarcely debatable. It hardly could be considered a pillar of lasting world peace. But the very best answer is a strong, sound, and vigorous democratic society in the nations of the Occident which works promptly, works well, and works permanently.

Potato Harvest Will Start June 2

Raleigh, May 22—Digging of early commercial Irish potatoes is expected to begin the week of June 2, according to the State Agriculture Department, which also reports that the crop has been damaged to some extent by the cool, dry weather which prevailed over most of North Carolina during April and the first two weeks of May.

Other truck crops made good recoveries during the first two weeks in April, during which the weather was alternately warm and cool with more than adequate moisture in most areas. Previous unfavorable weather had set the crops back somewhat.

The snapbean crop was reported to be up in all areas and making normal growth. Harvest in the Sampson, Wayne, Duplin and Pender area is

ADMINISTRATOR'S NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of Carl W. Blackwood, late of Pitt County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons having claims against the Estate of the deceased to exhibit them to the undersigned at Farmville, North Carolina, on or before the 16th day of May, 1948, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate settlement.

This 14th day of May, 1947, NELL S. BLACKWOOD, Admrx. of the Estate of Carl W. Blackwood, Deceased.

John B. Lewis, Atty. 16-6

expected to begin Monday. In the Edenton and Elizabeth City section, where the young plants suffered light cold damage earlier in the spring, the harvest will begin about June 1.

For the cabbage crop, no general recovery materialized from early spring cold damage, and in some cases fields were abandoned and the cabbages turned under. Volume movement is expected to begin in Currituck county next week, and the harvest also should start in Pamlico next week. A moderate volume of all varieties is anticipated.

The cucumber crop, which had favorable growing conditions, is showing good growth and harvest is expected to begin June 5-10.

The lettuce crop progressed slowly and only favorable weather during May can prevent heavy field loss. Also making slow progress was the green pepper crop, which was damaged heavily by the early cold.

Green-Vardell Opus On National Hook-up

Winston-Salem, May 22—"Songs in the Wilderness," a new cantata with words by Paul Green, Pulitzer prize winner, and original music by Dr. C. G. Vardell, Jr., dean of music at Salem college and nationally known as a composer, will be broadcast in part by National Broadcasting Co. from 5:15 to 5:45, Saturday afternoon, May 31.

The cantata, written especially for the 175th anniversary celebration of Salem college and based on the experiences and songs of the original Moravian settlers from Bohemia, will be officially premiered at Reynolds auditorium at 8:30, just after the broadcast. Approximately 275 voices under the baton of George King Raudenbush, Harrisburg, Pa., with Paul Peterson, Winston-Salem soloist, and the augmented Piedmont Festival orchestra will be used.

The presentation will open formally the Piedmont Festival of Art and Music, a week long annual Spring event in this tobacco capital of the world. In Reynolds auditorium will be a children's concert, an opera on

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June 5 and a play two days later, on June 7. On Sunday, June 8, a program of sacred music, open to the public, will be presented in Bowman Gray Memorial stadium.

Part Time Workers Need S. S. Cards

Some students now have part-time jobs, working in stores or shops. They, too, must have a social security card, obtainable at any branch office of the Social Security Administration. They are advised, however, not to apply for a card or number until they have been promised a job.

These cards are required so credit will be given for all money earned in jobs that come under the law.

A separate account is kept for each worker whose name appears on the books of the Social Security Administration.

The name and account number are included in quarterly tax reports submitted by each employer. It is, therefore, necessary that he have the correct name and number assigned to his workers.

Five important points are listed for students and others contemplating employment:

Get a card if one is needed. Do not get a card unless you plan to work. Take care of your card.

Ask your employer to copy down your name and account number, on his books.

If you lose your card, get a duplicate but be sure to specify that you want a duplicate card. Don't use a card with a number other than the one appearing on your original card.

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