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# America's ambivalent attitude toward peace in the world today

## AMERICA'S AMBIVALENT ATTITUDE TOWARD PEACE

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(General Hester retired in 1951 after 34 years active military service, including assignments as director of the German Food Program from 1945 to 1947, military attache to Australia, 1947-48, and commanding general of the Philadelphia Quartermaster Depot, 1948-51. Since retirement, he has done graduate study in international relations at the University of Pennsylvania and has written numerous articles for the New York Times, the Christian Science Monitor, the Saturday Review, and other leading magazines and newspapers. General Hester plans to live in Chapel Hill after February, 1960.)

Certainly the American people want peace. No one can really doubt this who knows them. But they also want jobs in order to feed, clothe, house, educate and provide for the general welfare of their children and themselves. This is equally true of other people, especially of the Chinese and Soviet people.

The American government also wants peace, but the government is not certain that the people will accept the tax burdens necessary for full employment unless they are frightened by some external "enemy." Unfortunately, the internal enemies: Poverty; ignorance; bigotry, are not adequate to the purpose.

These constitute the familiar faces, and many seemingly intelligent people still insist that no one worthy of his hire need be without adequate food, shelter, clothing, education and medical care in prosperous America.

In the opinion of many, this is the dilemma: Full employment through fear of the classical "enemy at the gates," or unemployment with peace under the Nazarene's concept. The fact that full employment is clearly obtainable with proper planning, under conditions of real peace, does not alter the fact that this is more difficult to achieve, especially emotionally.

For there will be no bands playing, no flags waving, no enemy to hate, in an economy build-homes, schools, hospitals, playgrounds, parks cultural centers, while at the same time tearing down slums.

It is this dilemma, many competent students think, which is responsible for our Government's ambivalent attitude towards peace. While we do not dare make peace, we, also, dare not fight a thermo-nuclear war; therefore, the Cold War must go on. We must hate the enemy, but we dare not destroy him lest we, in turn also, be destroyed.

It is only in this context that our conduct of

foreign policies in postwar years can be understood. How else explain the issuance of the Presidential proclamation of a "National Slave Week" of prayer for the Soviet people and "satellites" to coincide with Vice President Nixon's trip to the Soviet Union, summer of 1959, and the Executive agreements to furnish thermo-nuclear information and weapons to eight NATO countries, including West Germany, just as the Foreign Ministers were meeting to consider the Berlin crises?

How else can we explain the AEC's disclosure in January of this year (1959) of "unforeseen difficulties" in detecting underground and high-above-ground nuclear explosions after the scientists had agreed they were detectable, and just as the Geneva conference for the cessation of bomb testing was assembling; or the insistence of the late Secretary of State, Mr. Dulles, at London (August 1957) that the cessation of bomb production be "packaged" with testing, just as Mr. Stassen was nearing agreement on ending the tests?

How else explain former Secretary of State James F. Byrnes's sabotage of the Potsdam Agreement Augst 26, 1946, in a speech before a German audience, by demanding unification of Germany on U. S. terms while the foreign ministers were still in session in Paris?

Or Mr. Truman's Communist-containment policy announcement just as the late General Marshall, then Secretary of State, was meeting with other foreign ministers in Moscow, 1947, ostensibly for the purpose of reducing tensions?

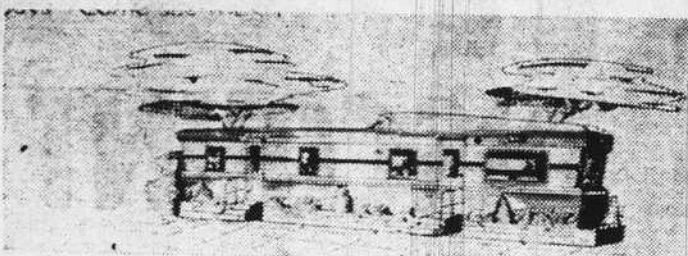
How explain another distinguished American's speech, former President Herbert Clark Hoover, again before a select German audience, January 1947, urging them to join the United States in the coming war against the "atheistic barbarians of the East?" How explain former Assistant Secretary of State Walter S. Robertson's polemic against Red China, or Secretary Herter's statement that the Soviet Union must be held responsible for Red China's conduct?

How explain Under Secretary of State Douglas Dillon's call for nuclear war against the Chinese under certain conditions, and Assistant Secretary Berding's denouncement of peaceful co-existence between socialism and capitalism as "subversive" immediately following the Camp David Conference?

Is this the bureaucratic and "Power Elite's" method for sabotaging the President's peace program? The answer, in my opinion, is "Yes". And is the greatest service any American can render vigorous support of President Eisenhower's efforts to achieve peace in a world gone completely mad with war plans.

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