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E A S T E R N E U R O P E

Peace Demonstrations The drive of the major Communist front organizations to mobilize world public opinion behind Soviet "peace objectives" and against western defense plans will be climaxed by world-wide demonstrations on "International Peace Day" scheduled for 2 October. These simultaneous mass demonstrations are undoubtedly timed to coincide with Soviet Foreign Minister Vishinsky's proposal at the UN General Assembly for a five-power "peace pact," and will provide the Communists with fresh opportunity to point to the USSR as the sole champion of peace. Communist determination to give maximum impetus to the current "peace" drive is further reflected in: (1) plans for a 1 October US "National Trade Union Conference for the Defense of Peace" at Chicago, to be attended by the Secretary of the Soviet Central Committee of Trade Unions; (2) a Polish plea for UNESCO support of the peace movement; and (3) the scheduling of peace congresses in Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Finland, and Great Britain.

S O V I E T U N I O N



Atomic Explosion With the announcement of an atomic explosion in the USSR, Soviet capabilities for fighting the cold war have been increased. No immediate change in Soviet policy or tactics is expected. In fact, the improvement in the Soviet power position resulting from possession of the atomic bomb makes it less likely that the USSR will relax its intransigence in East-West negotiations. Moreover, the USSR can use the new situation to advantage as additional support for nearly all the major policy lines it has followed since the end of World War II.

SOVIET UNION

In its continuing efforts to check growing Western European economic and military unity, the USSR will now exploit the world-wide fear of an atomic war. In this respect, the USSR has seriously weakened the psychological advantage until now held by the US as a result of monopoly of atomic weapons, particularly since the announcement was made before the US had succeeded in building a strong political, economic, and military bulwark against Soviet expansion.

Meanwhile, the USSR may find it easier to gain support for a UN compromise between the US and Soviet positions on control of atomic energy. The Soviet stand, calling for destruction of atomic weapons before international controls are imposed, will have greater propaganda effect inasmuch as Soviet spokesmen can now assert that Soviet atomic weapons will also be destroyed. The USSR will not relax its opposition to effective international control of atomic energy but, in view of the advantages accruing to the USSR from an international convention outlawing atomic weapons, will probably increase its efforts to compromise the US atomic energy position.

Lastly, Soviet possession of the atomic weapon will greatly strengthen the current Soviet "peace offensive." It will enable Communist front organizations to point to the willingness of the USSR to destroy all atomic weapons and to stress the greater urgency for acceptance of the Soviet proposal for a five-power peace pact.