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What is Happening in Russia?

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A sudden thaw or change in tactics? A world which reads of Khrushchev's settling accounts with Stalinism as paid and done with, printed by the American State Department and thereafter accepted by Pravda--hears of events in Poznan where hungry workers openly resisted, is informed of the attack by Titoist widows on Hungarian Communist leaders and even in the Danish communist organs sees the most faithful and Stalinistic workers give expressions of doubt...asks amazed and not a little shocked: What does this mean? Is this really a sudden thaw in the communist dominated world or is it merely a change in tactics, with Khrushchev behind the scenes directing Togliatti and the other doubters who are quarreling with the Kremlin's present collective leadership.

One can look at these events through cold war glasses or the new international political binoculars. In other words, one can maintain the doubt which has been built upon many bitter experiences or one can piece together a mosaic from the many small fragments and build upon it a faith that changes for the good are actually occurring in the communist world. In the meantime it is dangerous to maintain a policy which says that the democracies during the post war years will manage to survive communism and therefore refrain from initiating any political moves which mean that East and West can co-exist. Even the U. S. Department of State, whose initiative has been crippled during the months of the presidential election and presidential sickness, is now beginning to realize this. One realizes that big things are about to happen in the Communist world. No one agrees on an interpretation of these events.

Poster Dulles, who is blamed by his friends for not realizing that foreign policy is sometimes made by silence, has loudly proclaimed that the recent developments in Poland are proof of the correctness of the United States' "Strong Policy."

George Kennan, the former ambassador to Moscow and perhaps the next Secretary of State in a Democratic administration, has said that the inner development of the Soviet world can only be stopped or injured by outside pressure. An interesting commentary was made by Joseph Harsch, who is the Foreign Affairs Editor of the Christian Science Monitor. He believes that something is happening within the Soviet Union that was not anticipated by the old Communist teachings. As its gigantic industrial power rises, the Soviet Union finds itself on the same level as England during the Napoleonic Wars and the United States at the beginning of World War I. One thing is certain, the development of the Soviet Union has reached the point where the West must decide how to judge and react to events in the East. At one time, one's hope was placed in the liberal policies of Malenkov. His downfall was the Berlin riots but the liberal trends he initiated survived and are being reinforced in the Russian people. Khrushchev has now experienced his "June 17" in Poznan, because his quarrel with Stalin in behalf of "oppressed peoples" has been considered as an attack upon

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all the intolerable conditions which exist in the communist world. What will happen to Khrushchev? More important, what will happen in the Communist world? This depends upon the totalitarian security system. He who tightens down the totalitarian security system's safety valve is always in danger of having the whole kettle explode in his face. Now the Free World must see to it that something happens in Communist World. The Free World, for good reasons, did not believe that anything would happen during Malenkov's era and perhaps for the same reasons it may believe that nothing will happen during the Khrushchev/Bulganin era, but it should not give up its belief in the fact that the men in the Kremlin have given up powers which they are no longer able to control... This was originally a tactical move, but will probably become an historical epoch.

One man who is close to Foster Dulles, his own brother Allen Dulles, as chief of the USA's combined intelligence services knows the hidden facts. Some weeks ago in a lecture at Cincinnati University he expressed this thought quite matter-of-factly and yet as well as it can be expressed when he stated:

The rapid industrial development in Russia also means the mass production of work leaders and qualified technicians. This is a new middle class which feels a personal interest in its jobs and desires to protect its privileges. The pressure from this new middle class can be felt at the top and can no longer be ignored. It is my guess that the modern industry, technology and culture will gradually reform the Russian society and make the existing dictatorship impossible. Ever since Adam and Eve ate of the forbidden fruit of the Tree of Knowledge, mankind has had to pay the price of tolerance and understanding in order to enjoy the fruits of civilization. This also applies to the Russians.

Allen Dulles, by the power of his position, is in possession of more premises upon which to judge Soviet Russian inner-development than anyone else. His conclusions are therefore of great interest. They are expressed as a caution, but also testify of foresight.