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INTRODUCTION:

"President Truman's Inaugural speech is given a warm welcome.... The general verdict is that the American New Deal... is now offered to the whole world." (London, in English, 21 January 1949)

"The principal theme of President Truman's Inaugural speech was peace and opposition to Communism." (San Jose, Costa Rica, in Spanish, 20 January 1949)

"...Truman made it clear that the U. S. was determined to continue its policy of intervention. ... Truman indulged in propagandistic attacks on Communism in order to conceal U. S. imperialist program of aggression.... To justify his war preparations, he alleged that Communism was preparing for war." (USSR-controlled Berlin, in German, 20 January 1949)

The above quotations typify the range of monitored foreign radio comments about the President's Inaugural Address. The USSR radio, however, has not yet commented; and, among its Satellites, only Hungary and Soviet-controlled Berlin have been heard from.

* Currently available, i.e., as of noon, 21 January 1949.

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THE USSR RADIO: To date, Moscow has issued one brief item about the Inauguration ceremony--"in connection with which, Truman delivered an address." The item, avoiding any reference to the contents of the address, also notes that Ambassador Paryushkin was among those present. (It may be worth noting here that the Soviet radio has not yet commented on Dean Acheson's appointment. It has continued to publicize American "demands" and recommendations for U.S.-Soviet harmony; and one broadcast repeats the occasionally stated thesis about the possibility for the two systems "to exist side by side." But the over-all pattern of Moscow's radio propaganda has not otherwise undergone any noticeable shift from its standard attacks on American "imperialism," its "exposures" of American capitalism, and its identification of American Governmental leadership with Wall Street's "reactionary, aggressive, monopoly capitalistic.")

THE SOVIET SATELLITES: In addition to the above-quoted statement, the Soviet-controlled Berlin radio characterizes the address as "abusive, in unmeasured terms, to the world's progressive forces and to those aiming at the maintenance of peace. The U.S. attitude toward the U.N. will remain the same as hitherto; it will try to use the U.N. for the furtherance of its foreign political aims." The Hungarian radio draws an invidious contrast between the President's promised policy of peace and freedom and his concentrated "open attack against the Communists and the USSR." As for Budapest's interpretation of the President's four points: in the first, he "merely tried to justify the policy pursued during the last years"; in the second, he "mentioned the maintenance of the Marshall Plan"; in the third, "he again promulgated the Truman Doctrine"; and "the fourth point was the announcement of the plan for the large flood of capital into colonial territories, the targets of this flood being first of all the British, French, and Dutch colonial territories in Southeast Asia." The Communist press in France and Britain emphasizes Truman's "renewed attack on Communism," his "rehash... of the most harebrained nonsense written on Communism." The French Communist HUMANITE contrasts the Truman Doctrine--"the expression of imperialist ambitions engendering ruin, disorder, and decadence wherever applied"--with the "great ideas of Lenin and Stalin" which are allegedly guiding hundreds of millions toward progress and Socialism. And Britain's DAILY WORKER, citing the USSR's latest production figures in answer to the President's analysis of Communism, contends that "it is in capitalist society that man is weak and inadequate."

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RADIOS OUTSIDE THE SOVIET ORBIT: As in the case of the State-of-the-Union and budget messages, radios outside the Soviet orbit are almost uniformly favorable in their comments about the Inaugural address. Truman's reaffirmation of America's departure from isolationism is noted and applauded; as is his policy of a "common defense against Communism." The address, says the London TIMES, is "the best practical reply to the Communist accusations of the ineradicable selfishness of capitalist society." Other British papers speak of "his natural simplicity (which) put fresh meaning and new life into well-worn phrases"—and of "this likeable and courageous American President." Other comments remark on his consistent support of the U.N., and applaud his refusal to appease Communism. A Rome broadcast, however, wonders "what protection the U.S. can afford Europe in the unlikely, but not impossible, case of short notice." And a Dutch broadcast considers it "noteworthy" that the President did not mention the present situation in China.

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