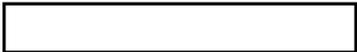


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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
OFFICE OF CURRENT INTELLIGENCE
25 APRIL 1953

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SUMMARY OF PRAVDA'S REPLY TO
PRESIDENT EISENHOWER'S ADDRESS OF 16 APRIL

Pravda's reply to the President's 16 April speech on the international situation constitutes an effort to regain the initiative in the "peace offensive" through a strong appeal to world opinion. The appeal is couched in terms intended to prove the consistent rightness of Soviet foreign policy during the post-war years and to fasten the blame for the continued existence of unsolved international issues upon the United States. This "peace offensive," as elaborated by the Pravda editorial, differs from those periodically conducted in the past by the Soviet Government only in its more comprehensive character.

Pravda touches on all international issues of outstanding importance as follows:

Korea: The Korean war has been a test of the foreign policies of the USSR and the "Anglo-American bloc" during recent years. The USSR has invariably supported a "just truce" through "deeds rather than words."

Germany: Having made Western Germany "an instrument of its 'dynamic' foreign policy," the United States is responsible for the continued disunity of the German state. President Eisenhower failed to note that the Potsdam Agreement already offers a basis for a German settlement.

Pravda's call for a German peace treaty, unification of the country, and the evacuation of foreign troops reveals no change in the Kremlin's position on Germany. The USSR has consistently argued that the Potsdam Agreement must form the basis for an agreement on Germany. References to the "Anglo-American bloc" and to the special concern of the French people with the US "dynamic" foreign policy in West Germany are part of the conventional Soviet splitting technique.

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China: The President failed to "illuminate" the question of China and said nothing about admitting the Chinese People's Republic to the United Nations or about restoring its "lawful territorial rights, including Taiwan." Secretary of State Dulles a few days later, however, revealed the American Government's concern over the fate of Nationalist China and its pride in the political and economic blockade of the Chinese People's Republic. In these statements Mr. Dulles revealed the US Government's "martial inclinations." Such "aggressive" American policies towards China, however, are "doomed to failure."

Eastern Europe: The President implied that the governments of the Eastern European states were forced upon them from outside. This is untrue, and it is absurd to expect the USSR to assist in the restoration of "reactionary regimes." The responsibility for barring entry to the United Nations to the democratic governments, not only of Eastern Europe, but also of China, lies with the United States.

Liberation Movements: In calling upon the USSR to use its influence to retard the liberation movements among colonial and semi-colonial peoples of Asia, the President reveals ignorance of the true nature of these movements and contradicts historical laws.

Austria: An Austrian treaty can be achieved on the basis of agreements previously reached with "genuine regard for the democratic rights of the Austrian people."

The United Nations: The United States, not the USSR, is responsible for perverting the charter of the United Nations. It is not too late to remedy the situation provided that no government strives to convert the UN into an instrument of its own policy. Moreover, the UN cannot function as it should while Communist China remains outside and "some Kuomintang scarecrow" is admitted.

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Disarmament: "In his speech, Eisenhower also dwells on the question of the reduction of armaments. He devotes to this question his corresponding "Five Points." The Soviet side, of course, does not object to the proposals laid down in these points." The President's attempts to blame the USSR for the arms race are without foundation. The USSR has been concerned solely with the restoration of its peace-time economy and has repeatedly made concrete proposals for disarmament, including prohibition of atomic weapons. The President, on the other hand, offered proposals "of a too general nature which can in no way advance the complicated matter of armaments reduction." The US in the pursuit of its aggressive foreign policy and aiming at world domination, started the arms race. But the President evidently considered it "inconvenient or disadvantageous to talk about all this openly."

US Economic Aid: The President's offer to divert funds from arms production to a program to reduce want and need seems on the surface to be worthwhile. However, it appears that what he has in mind is a variant of the Marshall Plan or Point IV, by which weaker states are subordinated to the "dynamic aims" of US foreign policy. Such a scheme has been found unacceptable even by countries adhering to the US Bloc.

Pravda's treatment of the above and other less important issues suggests little inclination to compromise on the part of the new Soviet regime. The editorial indeed rejects the concept that there has been a "termination of a certain era in Soviet policy" and particularly in Soviet foreign policy, "the correctness of which has been proved by the entire course of international development." Having thus by implication, at least, cast aside the possibility of major change in Soviet foreign policy, Pravda suggests that it is more appropriate to speak of the "end of an era" in US policy. Thus it is inferred that it should be the US rather than the USSR which should compromise on international issues. "But the new United States President himself for some reason takes under his protection the whole policy of his predecessor, whom he had criticized in his time, and not without grounds, particularly during the election campaign."

Pravda concludes by reiterating the Kremlin's alleged willingness to discuss international issues. The USSR, unlike President Eisenhower, does not set up a series of "preliminary conditions," but would welcome "any step by the US Government or the government of any other country.... directed towards a friendly settlement of contentious questions....by direct negotiations and when necessary, within the framework of the United Nations."

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Thus, having set forth its general position in general terms, the Kremlin in effect calls upon the United States to make specific proposals and to take the next concrete step towards discussions.

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