



Most Powerful Next to Stalin—Soviet Vice Premier Georgi M. Malenkov (left) is rated by veteran Moscow correspondent Edmund Stevens as right-hand man to Russia's dictator Josef Stalin. V. M. Molotov (right) is the publicly recognized No. 2 man.

VETERAN CORRESPONDENT SAYS:

Leaders of Kremlin Bent On Eventual War on West

(Editor's note: What are the calculations of the Soviet leadership on war or peace? How is the great monolithic state being geared for the ventuality of conflict? Edmund Stevens, staff correspondent of the Christian Science Monitor, recently left Moscow after more than 10 years of close observation of Russian affairs from both sides of the iron curtain. Fresh from a three-year assignment in the Russian capital, he has tried to answer to the most anxious questions of westerners concerning the enigma that is the Soviet Union today.)

This is the first of a series of four articles digesting his findings, as published by the Christian Science Monitor in 40 installments.)

New York, Feb. 7. — (AP) — The leaders of the Kremlin are bent on eventual war with the west, if they can get away with it, says an American reporter who recently left Moscow. But Edmund Stevens, back from a three-year assignment as correspondent for the Christian Science Monitor in Russia, says he is convinced today more than ever that "the world's future depends on understanding between the United States and the Soviet Union."

Soviet aims and policies have since the war, become plain for all to see—expansion through superimposing the communist system, Stevens writes. But the foremost question today is this: Do the Soviet leaders, who have an atom bomb now, want war? The answer, the correspondent says, is "No—and yes."

For the immediate future, he said, the answer is no. But in the long view, with the shifting of world power in the Kremlin's favor, the answer is yes. The communist leaders always have predicted the inevitable bloody clash of capitalism and communism.

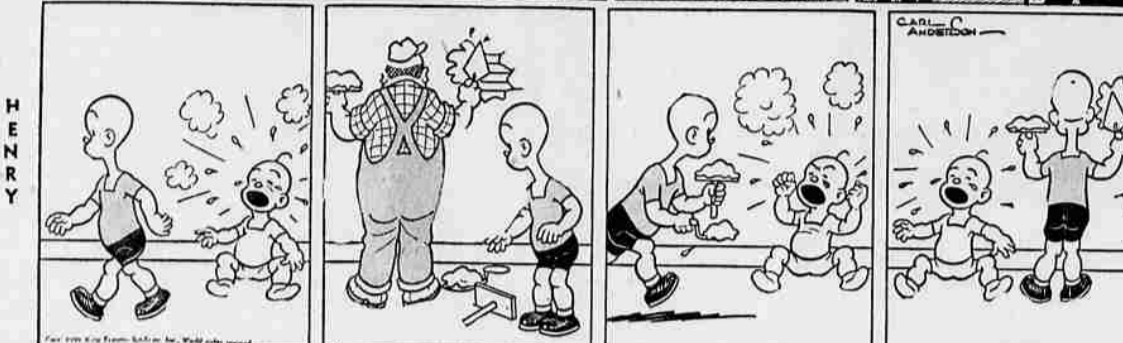
Stevens says the Kremlin leaders want to avoid war now while preparing militarily and economically and while running calculated war risks such as the Berlin blockade. But he adds that there is a margin of hope for peace in the realization by the Kremlin that it would be difficult to sell the Soviet people on a war of aggression.

To beat Soviet propaganda, Stevens writes, the west must put its own economic house in order. While avoiding outright appeasement, it must explore every possibility for genuine agreement. The west he says, should miss no opportunity to go over the heads of the Soviet leaders, directly to the Russian people.

The voice of America has made "a splendid beginning" on these lines, as indicated by the frantic Russian jamming of the broadcasts, he says, adding: "Even today, what filters through the wall of interference is a far more powerful weapon than the atom bomb—a weapon for peace that reaches men's minds and creates, instead of destroying. As matters stood in 1949, Stevens calculated that the eventual armed clash of the two systems would come in the long run. But the west must remember, he adds, that despite doctrinaire aims and outlook, the Soviet leaders are fully capable of changing their minds."

He recalls that Stalin himself once proclaimed that "the logic of things is the strongest of all logic."

Who are these leaders who boldly balance the pros and cons of world holocaust? The most powerful today, under Stalin, says Stevens, is a man who knows nothing of the west from first-hand experience, a man who is young enough to have grown up intellectually under Stalin's complete domination. He is Georgi Malenkov, whose recent rise at Stalin's right hand has been meteoric. Lacking mass appeal, he dislikes the limelight and prefers to pull wires behind scenes. But he occupies today the same strategic post which Stalin held in relation to the declining Lenin. Malenkov has used this position to carry out a quiet purge of possible opponents, always carefully consolidating himself before making a new advance. At home his policy meant tightening up against unrelaxing, including renewed discrimination against Jews. Abroad it meant tightening control of conformist countries, ruthless elimination of Titoism, arbitrary imposition of the Soviet econom-



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