

Truman Urges Free World To Close Ranks To Meet Threat From Russians

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And there is a third area in which we face immediate and serious trouble—and that is in South East Asia and in the Far East, which are in political ferment, and where newly independent nations are being preyed upon by the Communists. There is a grave development in Indonesia where the rich natural resources and remarkable skill and aptitudes of the people have already exposed them to Communist encroachments. The hope of democratic development there is threatened, exposing at the same time the free nations of Australia, New Zealand, the Philippines, and Thailand. For Indonesia is so situated geographically that it could serve as a springboard for intrigue and subversion against this perimeter of free nations by the Communist masters of China and Russia.

Wants Personal Leadership
In view of these great dangers, I hope the President at Bermuda will henceforth exercise personal leadership in the conduct of our foreign policy. It is impossible, under our system of government, to conduct foreign policy successfully by delegation of the President's personal powers and responsibility. No matter how able the individuals to whom the President may attempt to delegate his powers, it usually leads to confusion and misunderstanding with foreign governments and with our own Congress and people. When I called in Dean Acheson to name him Secretary of State, I said, half seriously, to him: "Dean, you are going to be Secretary of State, but you will not be the President. I have no intention of being my own Secretary of State at any time, but under the Constitution only the President has the power to make foreign policy. I will exercise that power. I expect you to come to me with your recommendations. I will make the final decisions which the Department is to carry out." This policy, faithfully carried out, helped reduce the margin of misunderstanding both with foreign governments, which were kept closely informed, and the Congress, which was always consulted and briefed in strict bipartisanship.

Opportunity To Resume Control
Therefore, beginning with Bermuda, the President has an opportunity to resume personal control which is so essential to restore to the United States its position of world leadership of the free nations.

At Bermuda, I hope the President will undertake to bring

Britain back into full partnership for our mutual benefit and security. I cannot subscribe to the contention of some of our experts and self-designated prophets that Britain and France are in decline and no longer can be depended upon as major powers. Those experts would have us abandon historic friendships on the ground that we must now seek out new and rising nations with which we could build more firmly for the future. If I remember my history correctly, the Duke of Wellington and Lord Russell foretold the end of Britain in the 1840s!

This was sheer nonsense in the 1840s. It is sheer nonsense now. The greatness of Britain and France call for no defense from me or anyone else. Their contribution to democracy, industry and science, apart from their culture, are so enormous as to assure their continuance as important factors in civilization for centuries to come. They have come through two terrible wars at enormous sacrifices with their democratic institutions and their cultures standing firm. We should and will do everything in our power to give them encouragement and support, as much for our own sakes as for theirs.

Historic Development
A historic development is now taking place in Europe—the putting into action of an age-long dream of an economically united Europe in which Britain and France would play important roles. Many of the historic trouble spots in Europe would vanish once this dream becomes a reality.

This would help us to encourage other evolving areas of the world to make use of their resources for their own benefit and the common interest of the peoples of the world.

Let no nation take advantage of the awakening of Asia and Africa for purposes of aggrandizement and exploitation, or set into motion new alignments of power and rivalry. In a world of so much undeveloped resources and riches, there is room and opportunity for all nations to thrive and for all peoples of all colors to achieve their rightful dignity and place among men.

Betrayed Ignorance
At the Potsdam conference in 1945, Stalin turned to Churchill in my presence, after the British Prime Minister had made some comment about the Pope, and asked cynically, "How many divisions has the Pope?"

By that one question Stalin betrayed the crassest ignorance of history, misjudging the real sources of power—the mind and the spirit of men. Twelve years have passed since Stalin asked this question, and the threat to the free world by the Russians is still with us.

History is on the side of the men who believe in the power of the spirit. But until the Russian people do something about their own freedom, we, and the free world, will have to maintain the necessary divisions. That is the only condition the Communist rulers appear to respect.

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The Family Council

Editor's note: The Family Council consists of a judge, a psychiatrist, three clergymen, a newspaper editor, a woman's editor and two writers. Each article is a summary of an actual report. The Family Council does not give advice; it merely reports on problems that have been dealt with by responsible agencies and counselors.

Mr. B. M.—My son doesn't respect me.

Pat M.—He thinks he's Horatio Alger.

Mr. B. M.—I come of a very poor family and by my own efforts I built up a highly successful business and gave my family every advantage that I did not have. Now I find that my son has no respect for me.

Pat is 25 and he recently came into the business. Naturally he thinks he knows more than his father because he has the education I couldn't get. He has come in with the idea that he is going to revamp my business from scratch. He is full of theories, but has no experience and is constantly getting into trouble. Then he goes crying to me to get him out.

That isn't the worst of it. When I am not around, he talks about "the old man" to my business associates in a way that makes them think I am so outdated I don't know what the world is about any more. I would tell him to get out on his own if I didn't feel so sorry for him. He's such a young fool he'll make a mess of anything he undertakes.

Pat M.—Dad thinks he's Horatio Alger, in person. It doesn't do any good to point out to him that his success is due partly to luck, partly to the current economic trends. You'd have to be an idiot not to have made money in his business during the

past 15 years. When I came into the business, I discovered my father's business practices were not only old-fashioned and inefficient, but often unethical and sometimes bordering on illegal. I am not trying to show off my superior knowledge when I say these things. It just happens to be obvious to me that certain things can get him into a lot of trouble and destroy his reputation. I certainly don't want any part of these dealings.

The only trouble I've gotten into has come as a result of my father's crossing up some of the things I've done by way of improvements. I'd be glad to leave him if I didn't worry about the mess he's making.

The Council: Despite their harsh attacks on one another, this father and son must have a strong bond of affection. It is shown in their desire to stand by one another, even though their differences are so strong. Pat and his father must remember this bond of affection when their differences and their strong sense of rivalry come to the fore. Mr. B. M. is domineering and seems to want to belittle his son. Pat is in a hurry to seize power and wants to belittle his father and his accomplishments. Each wants to assert his ego at the expense of the other.

Simple courtesy and mutual respect is called for on both sides. Mr. B. M. should recognize that "theories" are not always wrong. Practices based on knowledge can add, not detract, from his business. Experience is important, but it is not everything.

Pat, on the other hand, should recognize that "luck" comes to those with the vision to see it. Many businessmen failed during the past 15 years despite the economic trends. His belittling of his father to business associates is every bit as damaging to the man's reputation as the "trouble" he fears.

Pat and his father need to learn to listen to one another and practice objectivity—for the sake of the business and their relationship.

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