

Drummond Reports

Roscoe Drummond reports on the Washington scene in the absence of Walter Lippmann.

WHAT EISENHOWER IS FINDING

Washington — Secretary of State Herter is constantly warning us—and our allies—of the danger of "euphoria"—that dream-world glow that peace is just around the corner.

This is a useful reminder, but it is an encouraging fact that in the first three countries which President Eisenhower has visited on his tri-continental tour, he has found both public opinion and official opinion completely free of euphoria; in fact, he found that the people of Italy, Turkey, and Pakistan, are worried lest we in the United States relax prematurely by construing an improvement in the atmosphere in East-West relations with solving the problems of the cold war.

They are not the same. Many of our allies are as anxious as Mr. Herter that Western defenses be kept strong—preferably stronger—until we find out whether Mr. Khrushchev is prepared to turn an "improved atmosphere" into enforceable agreements.

This is one of the central warnings sounded by the latest Rockefeller brothers report on "The Mid-Century Challenge to U. S. Foreign Policy" in the course of which its distinguished panel of experts declares:

"The free world must not permit the Communist states to extend their rule. The United States cannot accept measures which would abandon West Berlin to Communist rule, dissolve NATO, allow West Germany to fall within the Soviet orbit, or otherwise undermine the free states of Europe. For as long as necessary, the strength of the Western deterrent must be maintained."

OF COURSE we want to improve the climate of East-West relations, but we need to bear in mind that this does not remove the causes of the cold war. It only gives us a better opportunity to try to remove at least some of them.

There is no doubt that the outlook has changed considerably over a year ago when Mr. Khrushchev was trying to coerce the smaller members of NATO to withdraw, was trying to scare Italy and Greece from accepting U.S. missiles, and was telling the U.S., Britain, and France that we better get out of West Berlin—and quick.

Contrasted to this tense situation only 12 months past is the new mellowness in which the principal ingredients are these: Mr. K. has withdrawn the ultimatum on West Berlin; we are resuming disarmament discussions at Geneva; the Soviets have agreed to examine new scientific data on detecting underground nuclear explosions; the Moscow press is publishing the text of an occasional speech by an American official; Russia, the U. S., and ten other nations have signed a treaty demilitarizing the Antarctic and providing uninhibited inspection and some scientific cooperation; the Soviets have ceased boycotting the U. N. committee to work out greater cooperation in space; little Soviet jamming of the "Voice of America."

THIS is a sizable volume of favorable developments. A year ago few would have thought them attainable. But in Secretary Herter's mind there are two needed caveats:

1—If the Soviet Union can move with such ease and speed to cut back the cold war, it can move with equal ease and speed to resume the cold war.

2—With the exception of the Antarctic treaty, every one of the steps thus far taken to improve the East-West climate concerns only procedure; no step has yet been taken to deal with the substance of any of the cold war issues. To agree to look at the new scientific evidence affecting underground testing doesn't mean doing anything about it; to agree to talk again about disarmament doesn't assure any disarmament.

All this is simply to say, as evidently the Italians and the Turks and the Pakistanis, who live on the rim of Communist aggression, are saying to President Eisenhower, that we must not dilute our strength on the basis of atmosphere but only on the basis of enforceable agreement.

It also seems fair to suggest that Mr. Khrushchev cannot remain simultaneously an ally of Chinese Communist aggression and an ally of ending the cold war.

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