

# Editorial Page

## A Better Foundation

The yearning for world peace is virtually universal. Yet there is a question. It is this: Should world peace come, what would be the effect on the economy? Defense spending, now at the \$55 billion a year mark, is responsible for a vast amount of industrial production and employment. A long list of communities and areas largely live on it. So—would peace, ironically, plunge us into depression?

In a recent issue U.S. News & World Report examines the matter. And its findings add up to a more optimistic picture than many might expect.

To begin with, it observes in effect, the prospect of a real peace is about as clouded as anything could be. It is true that there has been something of a lull in the cold war. But the grave trouble spots, some potentially explosive in the extreme, remain—Cuba, Korea, Red China, Vietnam, and Berlin. As it observes, this is "... hardly a world in which to go about unarmed, or even with a smaller arsenal of weapons."

Even so, the hopes for eventual peace and the resultant disarmament exist. Where, and to what extent, would the economic dislocations be most critically felt?

In the most recent year for which such figures are available, U.S. News shows military orders accounted for 94 per cent of all aircraft and parts, 61 per cent of ships and boats, 38 per cent of radio and communications equipment, and so on down a list in which many of the basic industries are involved to a varying extent. Payrolls reflect this situation.

Some states—with California way at the top of the list—are far more dependent on defense spending than others. As of the year

that ended last March 31, 10 states accounted for two thirds of the prime contracts, with a money value of \$17 billion.

Even so, says U.S. News, all the authoritative studies so far made—including those by government agencies and other groups—agree on three points.

Point 1. Disarmament would be partial and would be spread over a lengthy period of time. A \$5 billion a year cut, to a total of \$25 billion, has been suggested as a probability.

Point 2. A tax cut would accompany it, thus cushioning the shock.

Point 3. Business as a whole—despite the severe adjustments that would be necessary in some fields, as well as some states—would not have to be upset for a prolonged period. The magazine says: "... the effects would be spotty, and few think a general depression would necessarily follow unless the arms cutback should happen to coincide with the working of other forces of a deflationary type." The experience with the heavy cuts in arms spending that followed World War II and the Korean truce bears those anticipations out.

U.S. News goes into considerable detail concerning the effects of disarmament on individuals, enterprises, institutions, and policies. The summing up: "Any real peace, permitting substantial disarmament, still looks a long way off. Yet planning for peace is a continuing project. If it comes, the experts agree, the country should be able to take what it brings in stride, without a collapse of the economy."

It is a travesty on intelligence to consider war and killing as a foundation for prosperity.



## IN WASHINGTON ... Foreign Policy 'Thaw'

By RALPH de TOLEDANO  
From the public acts and private utterances of President Kennedy and his Administration, it is clear that American foreign policy has made an abrupt about-face. Neither the President nor the State Department is willing to admit that this is so, but there is no longer any doubt in the minds of competent observers and fascinated foreign diplomats that the Truman containment policy which governed our affairs has been tossed into the discard. With it went the possibility that the Dulles policy of "liberation"—never very much more than words—might ever be implemented.

Mr. Kennedy—aided by the Walt Rostow, Arthur Schlesinger Jr., and McGeorge Bundy triumvirate—can be summed up briefly. They are based on the reversal of the Truman Doctrine, expressed in the famous "Mr. X" (George Kennan) article of 1947 that the U.S. can deal effectively with the Soviet Union only "as a rival, not a partner in the political arena."

In its place, the Kennedy Administration has substituted concepts once enunciated by Walter Lippmann in his attack on the Truman Doctrine. Mr. Lippmann's standing as a prophet may be gauged by his flat assertion in 1947 that "The strength and resourcefulness to contain the Soviet power over a period of 10 or 15 years." The Kennedy Administration seems to have waited until the Lippmann prediction fell of its own weight before adopting the policies he advocated.



## WASHINGTON CALLING ... Inching Toward Peace

By MARQUIS CHILDS  
UNITED NATIONS, N.Y. — On the Kennedy measuring rod the world stands considerably short of the millennium and still just a step away from the apocalypse of nuclear war.

This curious position poised between heaven and hell, as summed up in the President's speech, reflects the atmosphere of the United Nations and the peoples represented in the great glass cube on the East River. Whether it is a pause, with the forces for further progress toward peace still strong and movement in the future assured, or merely a brief punctuation mark in the cold war no one can yet say.

span of his papacy he brought about a complete alteration in the climate of opinion within his church. And this in turn brought changes in the political climate in the West.

But quite apart from the speeches and the rhetoric of statesmen profound changes are taking place and those changes seem to have a momentum of their own. Despite the elaborate bureaucratic procedures set up in Washington, the barriers of trade with East and West are bound to be breached.

The second unseen but felt presence was that of Dag Hammarskjold. He contributed mightily before his tragic death to the U.N. Even more important he buttressed belief in the integrity of the world organization and its capacity to find a way out of the grave crises that in their multiplicity nearly overwhelmed the U.N. during his tenure as Secretary General.

Does this mean the momentum achieved thus far will be lost? Many fear just this will happen. There are certain steps Washington and Moscow can start without allied approval. One is the initiation after so many delays of an airline linking the two countries. Cultural and other exchanges can be expanded.

That was the insistent demand of the businessmen brought to Washington to discuss the expansion of exports. America's European allies are doing \$2 billion in trade with the Communist bloc, including China, and the barriers imposed by the Department of Commerce greatly handicap American business in its foreign operation. An American business firm or that firm's licensee in Europe makes a successful bid for an order from a bloc nation and it is stopped by Washington. Promptly a French or German or British company picks it up.

Looking frankly at the department of future hope and possible next steps to relax tensions the prospect on the diplomatic level is slim. An agreement to keep from outer space may be negotiated. In a sense this has already been discounted, since the orbiting of nuclear weapons can serve no military purpose that is not already served a thousandfold by the huge land-based and sea-based

arsenals in being. Cooperation on an expedition to the moon is a long way off.

The Canadian wheat deal with the Soviet Union is another sign of the changing times. A year or two ago that deal would have touched off a loud chorus of denunciation in the Congress. Today the reaction is one of concern and annoyance that the United States with its vast stored surpluses of grain seems to be precluded from such sales.

When science-fiction takes earthlings to another planet, the inhabitants there are either humans in disguise or subhumans. In either case, the new planetary setting adds nothing to self-knowledge.

Scientists are now convinced that life is a fairly frequent phenomenon in the universe. And with three trillion other galaxies in the universe, it is highly probable that something resembling human life exists elsewhere on this earth. Even educated religionists now admit this possibility—Father Thurston Davis, editor of "The Catholic Mind," recently said in a speech that "there will be, on other planets sailing the airy seas around other suns, intelligent beings like ourselves or perhaps superior to our blundering race."

