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Crux Of Situation

AS wide and complex as are the international questions of the day they all centre around one big problem — relations between the "two camps." When we talk about Germany we talk about Russia. When we talk of the Japanese peace treaty we talk of Russia. It is hard to think of a theme without Russia coming into it somehow.

For, when all is said and done these days, the dominant theme is that of the cold war. Is there any chance of ending it? If not, how is it to be waged so that, without yielding to "cold aggression," we can avert the danger of a hot war?

Of cardinal importance in any assessment of the situation and its possibilities is the assessment of the real intentions of the Soviet government.

At the present moment, Soviet propaganda harps incessantly on two themes, the theme for peace and the possible co-existence of the two systems. Does this indicate genuine desire, genuine willingness on the part of the Kremlin to reach a detente with the West to call, at any rate, a truce in the cold war? Is there an opportunity which wise statemanship could and would seize? It might be so. For Russia, as well as the West, must be finding the indefinite prolongation of the cold war both a costly and anxious business.

Here is a possibility which will not be overlooked in the forthcoming London talks of the three Western foreign ministers. It is, undoubtedly, this possibility that is taking Trygve Lie, Secretary General of the United Nations, to Moscow.

Unhappily Soviet practice has been to contradict Soviet propaganda. The usual tone of Soviet diplomacy is harsh, insolent and hostile—not the least the tone of men who would really like to make friends.

All Western statesmen and all Western people would be glad to see the cold war ended. But the cold war can only end if Russia is prepared to stop waging it. So far, she gives no practical sign of such desire. Instead she is waging it as vigorously and unscrupulously as ever.

Dean Acheson hit the nail on the head the other day. "There can, he said, "be no agreement, there can be no approach to agreement unless one idea is done away with. That is the idea of aggression and that word aggression includes not only military attack but propaganda warfare and secret undermining of free countries from within."

HALIBUT REGULATIONS

LOCAL fishing circles are finding it difficult to understand the announcement of the Minister of Fisheries, Mr. Mayhew, that no recommendations have yet been made on the matter of widening the scope of the International Fisheries Commission to regulate the halibut industry of the Pacific coast, giving the Commission more power on regulation authority. Mr. Mayhew speaks of "strong differences of opinion" but those differences of opinion certainly would not appear to be very prevalent among the fishermen here at least on the crux proposal to split the season, allowing an additional quota quantity for the late season.

It would be interesting to hear a further elaboration of the opposition to the increasing of regulatory powers of the Commission which, in any changes to be made, would be actuated, it is to be supposed, upon the wishes of the industry and the fishermen, governed, of course, by biological findings and assumptions as presented to the Commission by its conference board.

THE GAS LINE

MR. Mayhew is probably right in saying in Vancouver that all the British Columbia members, although there has been some confusion of the issue over whether further permits should be granted for the gasline to the Pacific Coast, desire an all-Canadian route. As things are, it is Ottawa that grants the permit, Alberta has some power to regulate gas export while British Columbia is anxious that its supply should be protected and that the pipe line route should follow the route most advantageous to the province as a whole.

Undoubtedly, there are some unclarified factors in the current disagreement owing to conflicting statements and hasty assumptions but it is natural that there should be general agreement on the idea of an "All Canadian" route and that the Yellowhead route should be supported in this part of the province—especially since the Legislature has gone on record as being unanimously in favor of it.

Ray Reflects and Reminisces

It has been suggested in re-home for the past few years. The sponse quarters that, when Shrine Band seems to sound all British Columbia's new jail is built, the location will be in a part of this vast province, other than next door to Vancouver or New Westminster. Why not in Skeena, and cut out the 500-mile journey? Also, the north could use a fine, up-to-date brewery. Make the brew where you drink it. If anyone imagines we don't quaff beer in quantity, let him glance at the annual cost of refreshments.

For arguments sake, let it be assumed that, while there were whiskers, some who stampeded north neglected to develop a beard. The ladies preferred to remain smooth shaven.

Will the mounties be wearing the red coat in Rupert? It would not be the first time the scarlet tunic has been seen functioning in the north. For that matter, we have had them right here at

Prince Rupert's City Hall is not so old as buildings go, but it's beginning to have that exhausted appearance, nevertheless. The city was incorporated in 1910 and, for a while the earlier municipal council sittings, took place, not in the present premises, but elsewhere. The first ever held was in a provincial government block near the museum. Later, there was a shift to the Bank of Commerce way down on Centre Street. But all this has nothing in particular to do with the place where they typewrite, ponder deeply, add up long columns, receive taxes, read reports and point fingers.

Viewed from the harbor, Dodge Cove on Dugby Island faintly recalled has been seen functioning in the north. For that matter, we have had them right here at the same handful of small, new buildings. The harbor, seen from Dodge Cove, is a picture of unusual beauty. Incidentally, the shores opposite Prince Rupert, some day, will be built on. There are advantages—earlier daylight, for example.

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UBC STUDENTS TO TERRACE

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PRIME MINISTER AND GIRL—Prime Minister St. Laurent in a tour of Western Ontario visited Dresden, the scene of a flurry last year when some restaurants refused to serve negroes. Mr. St. Laurent is shown holding on his knee an eight-year-old negro girl, Doris Roper. He chatted with her about school. In an address the prime minister stressed that Dresden's early settlers "recognized the freedom and liberty of the human being." The original Uncle Tom, who inspired Harriet Beecher Stowe to write her famous book, is buried near Dresden. (CP Photo)

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