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Sen. Humphrey Urges Need
For Preventive Action To
Avoid Asiatic Conflict

St. Louis, Missouri.... Pitting the moral idea of democracy against the propaganda of totalitarianism, Senator Hubert H. Humphrey (D., Minn.) today posed the question of whether or not democracy can "out-propagandize" totalitarianism.

"We had to meet the results of fascist propaganda with military power because of our wait-and-watch policy", the Senator told an assembly at Washington University in St. Louis. "Are we going to wait and watch developments in the Asiatic area until the trickle of propaganda into a few ears grows into a mighty discordant roar?"

We have our Marshall Plan in Europe, the Senator told his audience, and we have our Atlantic Pact. But, he asked, whose finger is going to plug up the hole in the dike of Asia?

"The Communists are daily working to convert the shackles of Asia's feudalism to shackles of totalitarianism. They are working on a people who look for a new creed and a new life. They are walking on ground that is yielding and soft."

"We can prove our friendship and our faith in our own creed if we make it possible for the Asiatics to choose between alternatives--the alternatives of democracy and communism. People do not willingly enslave themselves. History has shown in every instance that people are lured and deceived into political and economic enslavement. Knowing that, can we lock our morality into one compartment in our minds, and shut our eyes against freedom's end in Asia?"

"There are great possibilities for intimate friendship between our country

and India, the potential stronghold of Asiatic democracy. We are doing nothing right now to encourage and develop that friendship. Yet in New Delhi sits the most aggressive defender of Asiatic democracy that we can hope to claim as an ally. India has, in Pandit Nehru and his associates, ready-made democratic leaders. They know the meaning of democracy. They know the alternatives. They don't need to be tutored in democratic thought. They need tangible help,--help that will bring their wealth out of the ground, help that will bring science and invention to India's teeming millions."

Showing that the Communist propaganda war is like a virus, Senator Humphrey declared, "It circulates about the whole world, going from nation to nation, attacking the least resistant and leaving them helpless and crippled. Just as we have recognized that preventive measures to stave off disease are a far happier goal than curative action, so we must realize that preventive action in Asia is a far happier goal than the inevitable military cure."



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