

From the Office of
Senator Hubert H. Humphrey
140 Senate Office Building
Washington, D. C.
National 8-3120, Ext. 881

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Soviet Russia is shifting its emphasis from military to economic warfare, seeking to "buy time to promote disunity and strife among the non-Communist nations, and build up its own military and economic strength," Senator Hubert H. Humphrey (D.-Minn) warned in an address to the Business and Professional Post of the American Legion at Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Speaking on the topic, "What's Russia Up to Next?", Senator Humphrey, member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, cautioned that the current Communist "peace blitz" was "a change in strategy, not any change in its ultimate objective".

"Communism is at war with freedom, whether that war be hot or cold," Senator Humphrey said. "The weapons may be guns in one instance, or an olive branch concealing a dagger in the other. We must be prepared for either."

The changing course of Communist strategy "shouldn't have caught us by surprise," Senator Humphrey said. He explained the latest Kremlin moves were carefully charted in advance at the Communist Party Congress held in Moscow last October -- the first since 1939. For that Congress, former Premier Stalin published an article in BOLSHEVIK, the major theoretical journal of the Communist Party, which "hinted broadly at a coming change in Soviet foreign policy".

"Stalin made two main points. The first was that war between Communism and Capitalism was not inevitable -- immediately, at least. Communism could still look for competition for markets between the capitalist nations, and for the trade wars and shooting wars which follow this competition, according to Marxist theory.

"Stalin's second point followed from the first -- Soviet foreign policy should seek to aggravate the economic differences of the western world, in order to split off certain areas from it. The areas which Stalin mentioned specifically were Western Europe and Japan."

From "between the lines" of Stalin's document, Senator Humphrey declared it becomes apparent that "our trade restrictions have in fact been hurting the iron curtain area badly".

"It means that one further reason for trying to split off and neutralize some of the most productive areas of the West -- Germany and Japan -- would be to encourage them to trade with Russia and the East," he said. "Such trade would be both a means of splitting these nations from the West, and a reason for encouraging such a split."

Senator Humphrey called the war in Korea "Stalin's biggest mistake".

"While it tied up United Nations forces in Korea, it also stiffened American public opinion to resistance to Communism abroad, and it brought about NATO -- and without Korea NATO might very well have been impossible," Senator Humphrey said. "NATO in turn led to the conception of the European Defense Community, and to the building of a solid wall against further Communist aggression, as well as to the further union of Western Europe."

"No doubt the Russians have also kept abreast of public opinion in our country -- the American people are, thank God, an outspoken people, and Moscow knows what they are thinking, just as Washington does."

"Moscow knows that the American people are anxious to cut military spending, and thereby to cut taxes. It knows that the American people are traditionally opposed to violence in international affairs -- and it hopes that a peace in Korea will bring about a defense cut-back in America which will leave the world safe for the Soviet's next warlike move, whenever they may choose to make it. Moscow hopes for a large reduction in foreign aid, which may leave some of the rest of the world free for Soviet expansion without a shot being fired."

"Clearly Moscow expects to gain a Western let-down from a Korean peace. And from a Western let-down, the iron curtain area has other things to gain -- chiefly time and trade."

"We in the United States thus find ourselves faced with an opponent whose ultimate aim is our destruction, but whose tactics of accomplishing that destruction change constantly"

"If Communist strategy is to give us a respite from violence now, it is essential that we plan wisely not only how to deal with a period of peace, but also how to deal with future changes in the Communist line -- changes which may confront us with violence once again"

"If the American and Western planning is successful, then the new Soviet policy will fail. Our planning will be successful if the Congress readies itself for responsibility."

"We ought to be telling the American people the facts as we find them, even if those facts are unpleasant and involve continued spending for defense and continued maintenance of large American armies."



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