to VI IN BOOK

Readena Copy:

THE CHALLENGE OF THE SOVIET ECONOMIC OFFENSIVE

Today the cherished values of Western chvilization are the

challenged as never before. We get so used to the word "crisis" repeated

again and again 7

in the screening headlines which about Berlin, Iraq or the Formosan

Strait that we forget its deeper meaning. It is perfectly true that

there are many <u>crises</u>, but underlying all these specific challenges

foundamental is a basic crisis of Western civilization as Some historians

and philosophers have referred to the quatect critical of modern times.

The profound and many-sided world crisis is the result of

is prequent with
three dynamic and interrelated realities, each of which presents

A

dangers and opportunities--

The challenge of modern technology - - -

The challenge of the revolution of rising expectations __

And the challenge of Communism itself.

The fantastic progress in technological development has put mankind within reach of one of his greatest goals, the elimination of poverty. But this same technology may be mankind's undoing. I need not remind an audience like this of the potential destructiveness

of modern terror weapons made possible by the new energy and

discovered by science. We should not blance science means of transporting energy. In passing it is well to remember

which can be used for good or ill. The problem is political and moral,

- expectations" in the economically less developed and politically noncommitted countries of Asia and Africa. The destiny of these people who are striving for or celebrating their independence may determine the destiny of the world within the next generation or two. Not everyone in the free world has grasped the impuritance political and moral significance of the ferment in these vast areas, but you can be sure the leaders of the Soviet Union have.
- The Communicated Modern technology and the upheaval in Asia and Africa would themselves be sufficient cause for a world crisis.

 But the crisis is compounded by the existence of an aggressive and expansive political religion whose ultimate goal is world conquest.

 The high priests of world Communism prefer to attain their goals without nuclear war if possible. But they have not ruled out either limited or total war if that seems necessary or expedient.

We make a great mistake, perhaps a fatal mistake, if we think of the Communist challenge as exclusively a military challenge, or even primarily a military threat. The challenge of Communism is military to be sure, but it is also economic, ideological, political, and in its deepest sense religious. I say distorted it is religious because the Communist view of them man and the world challenges the fundamental bases of our Judeo-Christian value system.

The Soviet Economy

Today I want to confine my remarks to the Soviet economic within the framework offensive. But I want to do this in the larger context of the Many-faceted Communist challenge and the larger world crisis.

It is one of the great ironies of American history that today
we are being given a run for our money by the expanding and dynamic
economy of a country which only a few short years ago we thought
of as "backward." This is a spectacle as humorous as the tortise
and hare. Before Sputnik streaked across the heavens, we
assumed that we were the biggest, the fastest-growing and hes
strongest economy in the history of mankind. And we were. We
became smug and complacent. We refused to believe in increasing

signs of growth in Soviet technology and productive capacity. The hare would win the race, paws down. We could stop for a short siesta under under a sycamore tree and the poor tortise, hard shell weighted down by the erust of socialistic controls, wouldn't have a chance.

But while we slept - wheekakkxxduring that wession to fall wast xeaxy the turtle plodded on, unnoticed and unobserved. Then came achievements which proved begand a shadow of Sputnik I and subsequent developments. We were shocked. We were down that that the U.I.S.R. had made momentarily stunned. But we still didn't all awaken It was giaut tech hological and Since allowed ownelves the luxury of a to the foll reality. * Economic

und out of it in the woods.

Alas, the race is no longer a race between a tortise and a hare. but between two hares. But because of our hurt pride, our lack of a sense of urgence and our lack of leadership, we still not running scared.

I would like to put a few facts on the record which if understood and taken to heart, will help us to run scared. By scared I mean properly afraid, not legiterial. Here are the facts: 1) We have consistently underrated Soviet economic and industrial

achievements. We have underrated their progress in atomic energy,

should sumer production. The Sputniks and Lunik/have shattered our rose-colored glasses, but even now there are people in Washington who tell us that we are ahead in nuclear energy and the missile race. The Secretary of Defense has himself issued smooth and reassuring words to the American people, words which were characterized by one of our kex most-respected columnists (Joseph Alsop) as "soothing syrup."

Now its true that the laymen, and this includes most members of Congress, do not know exactly where we stand in relation to Congressimal the Soviet Union, in spite of hearings to determine just that.

Sometimes the experts disagree. But isn't it the better part of wisdom and valor to overestimate Soviet economic and military strength than to underestimate it? Wouldn't it had been better of the democratic nations would have slightly overestimated Hitler to than to vastly/underrate him?

2) The Soviet economy is growing at about four times the rate of the U.S. economy. Although accurate statistics are hard to come by most economists believe that the Soviet economy is expanding at a rate of between 6 and 8 percent a year. In contrast the

at bresent is

American economy is now growing at a rate of less than 2 percent.

Since 1900 our economy, our Gross National Product (GNP) has grown an an average rate of 3% annually. From 1945 to 1952 it expanded at a rate of 5%. Since 1953 the rate has been about 2%.

Of course, the Soviet economy is not as big as ours. But the fable here's where the story of the tortise and hare comes in again.

While the hare takes it easy and permits himself the luxuries of needless ressessions, the tortise transforms himself into a hare.

Economists tell me that for Fark's short time last year the combined steel production of the U.S.S.R. and Red China exceeded the steel production of the mighty United States. This fact alone should make us run scared.

The leaders in the Kremlin can slice the national income pie any of endreuse way they wish, within the limits set by the longsuffering Soviet people.

This gives them a great advantage. They can plow back into the economy the capital necessary to guarantee the maximum prome economic development consistent with domestic and foreign policy objectives.

They can channel scarce resources into high priority enterprises such as nuclear energy, missiles, steel, and certain industries producing items for export. They can curb consumer demand by promising

force their people to produce guns with the promise that by the end of the present seven-year plan they will be producing both guns and butter.

A good share of Pramier's eight-hour speech at the recent

Party Congress in Moscow was devoted to explaining the goals of

the 7-year plan, and the overarching goal of out producing the

United States of America by 1972: in the 1970s.

"How, you may ask, has a totally and centrally planned economy been able to do so much? How could they have got where they are without the natural incentives of profit and reward in a free enterprise system like ours in America? The answer is that they are departed from the outhodox destraints of Manyiew and systembeth assistant.

leaders departed from the orthodox doctrines of Marxism, and adapted the copied the ideas and productivity from the system they decried.

The Soviet Union we do not have socialism or communism, but rather a system of State Capitalism. (May want to refer at this point to exchange with K on problem of inscentive in Red Chinese Communes.)

Way not yet have learned this lesson.

The Soviet International Economic Offensive

We have referred to Soviet economic strength and the capacity of Soviet leaders to make the economy serve political purposes. Now let us turn specifically to the Communist international economic offensive in the areas of and trade, aimst aid and investment.

nissions in many capitals of the world, including some capitals of some ca

Recently I hear a startling story about a Boston importer who purchased some sample microscopes for high school and college use from the Soviet Union. They cost roughly one-fourth of what similar instruments in the United States cost and they were of a superior quality. Perhaps the U.S.S.R. was "dumping" them; that is, selling them at less than cost. Whether she was "dumping" them or selling them at an honest price, the problem is serious. We are presented

a tremendous challenge from a manker "backward" country. Only a few years ago one of Americans top Russian experts said that the Soviet Union couldn't even mass produce bicycles! She has not only mass produced bicycles, and microscopes, but MIG jets, bombers, and perhaps with she is now mass producing ICBMs.

We can expect the meant Soviet trade offensive to increase in tempo and volume in the months and years ahead a Tuverture

2) The Aid Offensive: The Soviet Union is an Ivan-come-lately to foreign economic aid. The United States blazed the trail with the mighty Marshall Plan and subsequent programs of aid. And yet in this field in which we were pioneers we are being severely challenged. At the very time when many Americans are confused and unconvinced, when the very basis of economic aid is being challenged, the Soviet Union, according to all reports, is winning friends and influencing people through its aid offensive.

Apparently convinced that you "can't buy friends," the U.S.S.R. during the past three years has concentrated on inva capital investment as its major form of foreign aid. She has offered longterm, low-interest loans to the countries of the Middle East and
Asia.and There are extensive Soviet economic aid projects in the

United Arab Republic and in seven South Asian countries—— India,

Burma, Afghanistan, Ceylon, Indonesia, Nepal and Cambodia. The

Soviets are helping to build a steel mill in India, bridges in

Egypt, a cement plant in Afghanistan, a sugar factory in Ceylon,

a tire factory in Indonesia and a hundred other projects designed

to raise the living standards of these underdeveloped areas. In

the past three years the Soviet Union has extended at least In

Nasser aid to bulid the high dam across the Nile—— the same type of aid

which Mr. Bulles abruptly withdrew in 1955 and which many observers

believe forced Nasser to sieze the Suez canal.

The Soviet Union offers its development credits, and the

claims,
she says, without political strings attached.

The offer is attractive and we cannot blame politically uncommitted

countries to for accepting it. In their great desire for economic

development, they are reluctant to see the possible political implications

at the beginning of the Swiet purpose her

of such genetously-offered help. The interest rates were better than

beeld countries

they could get elsewhere. And there were no explicit political strings

seemed to

attached. Further, the Soviet Union/demonstrated with Sputniks that it she

could make as much technical progress in 30 years as the United States

did in 100 years. It looks as though many people in these areas from the prefer ruble diplomacy to dollar diplomacy.

Even if the acceptance of Soviet loans would lead to some

The argument that a centrally planned, designed and controlled ecomomy is inevitably and inexorably more powerful and productive than a free economy appeals to peoples who desire economic development, and who have no experience with the political restrictions which go along with Sovietstyle planning. The fear of the Commust model is appealing. The fear of and certainly economic penetration will be accompanied by ideological and political penetration, is not real enough to offset the economic appeals. We must do may be must strengthen the American Economy

economy and the success the Soviets have had in using economics as an instrument of their international objectives should help us to run scared.

But I am afraid that many of us know the facts without really understanding them. We need a new sense of urgency to accept the economic challenge of the Soviet Union for our domestic economy, as well as for our international

economic ourreach. Objectives

First, I would like to suggest how we can and indeed must downthin strengthen our economy if we are to meet the challenge successfully.

Our problem is not primarily an economic problem, but a political problem and a moral problem. The economists may not always agree, but in general we know how to increase productivity. The problem is whether we really want is and whether we are willing to take the risks involved.

To oversimplify the issue, and I suspect politicians must always oversimplify issues, I would say there are two competing philosophies natinal The one I would call George Humphreyism -- this about our economy. philosophy holds that the greatest danger to the United States is inflation, perhaps are greater than the threat of Communism, We must at all cost, according to the former Secretary of the Treasury, prevent inflation, even if it means cutting back in our rate of growth, even if it means about 3 and one-half millions of men unemployed and many others underemployed, even if it means that our industrial plants are working only to 75 or 80% capacity. Unemployment and underproduction are (according to this theory) preferable to full employment and high production if full employment and high production reduce the value of the dollar.

Now every decent person is opposed to inflation -- either of the galloping or creeping variety -- but that isn't the whole picture. There is,

I believe, a convincing to George Humphreyism. Modesty forbits me to label the answer Hubert Humphreyism: Serioously, I have been convinced by those political leaders and economists who believe that the risks of high production with some inflation are not nearly as the risks of underproduction with a stable dollar. Why do I say this?

First, and most obvious, the U.S. population is growing by 3,000,000 persons a year and we need more than our present 2% increase in productivity to keep stay where we are.

Second, if we are really going to take the Soviet economic seriously,
we must have sufficient production to keep up with her militarily,
scientifically and every other way.

I believe we should aim for a 5% rate of growth such as we had

from 1945 to 1952, even if this means some in takion. Inflation is

always serious but it will not be catastrophic if productivity keeps

ahead of it. Even if the dollar buys less than it did before, this is

not too serious if people have more dollars. In short, purchasing power

is the real issue. If a worker can buy more food, clothes and shelter

with sheeps with with forty hours of labor (with sheeps dollars) than

he could with forty hours of labor (with 75¢ dollars), he is better off.

Frankustiviti When productivity keeps ahead of inflation, the problem is

managable. The major problem affects those on fixed dollar incomes.

Persons receiving old-age and survivors insurance will suffer in an inflationary period unless their benefits are increased. Just as some of the more progressive union contracts have escelator elauses to assure that wages will be adjusted to rising costs of living, I believe that pensions, unemployment compensation payments and other fixed dollar incomes can be adjusted.

In short, I believe the risks of not increasing, I would say doubling, our present rate of economic expansion, are greater than the risks of not expanding.

The President's budget and budget message were influenced by

George Humphreyism. And I hope that the Democratic Congress will be

instructed by a more dynamic and imaginative philosophy— a philosophy

capacity
which believes in the ability of a free economy to be any productive

without being destructively inflationary.

Toward A Dynamic Economic Offensive

In the area of foreign economic policy
The Administration, partly in response to the Soviet challenge,

is taking some steps in the right direction, but the escalator of history

build a stronger economy at home in order to do what necessity and prudence demand that we do abroad. Our highly productive economy, even in its present less-than-dynamic state, makes it possible for us to do more than the Administration wants us to do. We will our position of leadership of the free world places upon a moral responsibility commensurate with our power and wealth.

1) Increase the flow of trade with other countries: At economists agree that the free world would be strengthened by the lowering of trade trade barriers among nations. Nest economists believe that the United States economy as a whole will benefit from freer trade, although they know that some industries will suffer. Adlai Stevenson put it: "We shall have to make the choice between relatively minor adjustments caused by increased imports or major adjustments caused by decreased exports."

Hore there with chil

The United States is a wealthy nation. With only six per cent of the world's population, she produces over forty per cent of the world's goods and services. Yet our country is dependent on imports from all over the world. If these imports were to be completely cut off, our daily life would change drastically until adequate substitute for vital imports could be found. Our automobiles, telephones, radios, television sets, and a hundred other modern necessities would become useless when parts depending on imports would wear out. We would be threatened with mass unemployment. And our defense program would collapse.

This soviet hope and this afficial

Every automobile needs thirty-eight essential materials which are largely imported. Forty-eight imported products go into every telephone. Not a single pound of steel can be made without manganese; nine tenths of our supply of this vital ore is imported. We import all of our chromium and tin, ninety-nine per cent of our nickel, sixty-five per cent of our bauxite (essential to making aluminum), forty-two per cent of our copper, and so on. On an average day about 418,000 tons of imports, worth forty-two million dollars, arrive at American ports. Only about one eighth of these imports are finished manufactured products which can compete with American-made goods. At the present time our annual imports total more than eleven billion dollars.

Other countries need our products and we need theirs. We need to export in order to buy the necessary imports for our own economic health. A substantial loss of foreign markets could damage our entire economy. The United States cannot export unless other countries have dollars to buy our products. To

obtain dollars they must sell to us. Trade is a two-way street. If the traffic slows down on one side of the street, it will have to slow down on the other. A balanced and high-level flow of world trade makes for world-wide economic health. The interdependence of nations is nowhere more clearly apparent than in the economic realm.

A

This is not the place to discuss the technical details

and procedures for increasing trade. I merely want to make the point

that we must take every opportunity to move toward this desirable goal

appropriate
and to take anyonemessary/governmental action to help those who industries

which may suffer undue hardships because of increased imports.

I might say in passing that I believe international trade, should be vertricted to not only trade among the nations of the free world. I favor certain types of trade with the Communist bloc, although this will, of course, have to be undertaken with proper regard for legitimate security considerations.

2) Utilizing Our Agricultural Sections One of the most vexing problems facing our country is are the agricultural surpluses resulting abundance. from overproduction. This is a serious domestic problem which has far-reaching international implications. It is clearly to the advantage of the United States to the stored up food and fibre before it becomes worthless. If we simply give it away to needy countries we run the risk of upsetting world market prices which may the recipiest countries we run the risk of upsetting world market prices which may have received as a country as the result in injury to the economies of other countries are nations.

Even if we sell in at the market price, and advance credit to purchase

them, we will be competing with other countries whose need for export

may be greater than ours -- unless une Find and use trenamic tools for

+ Hat some, rather + Haw detract from, our basic forein pour objectives,

There is no easy solution to this complex problem. We always

overlues

have to ask three questions: "What is good for the American farmer?

What is good for the U.S. economy? What will best serve our goals

of helping to strengthen our free world allies and the uncommitted

nations?"

The answering these questions

wise statesmanship must make difficult and discriminating decisions which honor the legitimste claims of each competing interest.

under Public Law 480 can and should be extended and enlarged to in soft of such a way that our farm applicates can serve the needy overseas without hurting our closest allies. I will support efforts in this direction.

I regret to say that the Administration plans to spend \$14 million less under Public Law 480 for fiscal 1960 than is being spent during the current year.

3) A Five-Year Development Loan Program: In the foreign aid
picture I have supported the Marshall Plan, the Point Four program of
technical assistance and direct grants for economic and military aid.

U.S. participation in the program.

I have supported economic and technical assistance of the United Nations.

But I firmly believe that the greatest opportunity for achieving
economic development in the politically uncommitted areas lies in a
greatly increased capital loan program.

I think each form of assistance has a proper role to play I would support an expanded program of technical axx aid under the Point 4 program. But I am firmly convinced that the greatest opportunity for achieving substantial economic development in the politically uncommitted areas lies in a greatly expanded capital loan program.

In the 19th century the London capital market provided vast sums of money for the development of economically "backward" countries, including the United States. Today the United States is the largest single source of capital, and yet the proportion of our Gross National Product going into development abboad is far smaller than that of Great Britain a hundred years ago.

aid was at its lowest ebb since the program had been launched, the committee distinguished research agencies on the problem of economic the recommended that the United States put foreign aid on of perhaps twenty or thirty years a long term basis/and that our government appropriate two billions a year for economic development. (The three research agencies were the Committee for Economic Development, a business-sponsored organization; the University of Chicago Research Center in Economic Development and

Cultural Change; and the Center for International Studies at MIT.)

This was not a hair-brained scheme, but a recommendation by the product of some

of the finest scholars in the country— men who know the capacity of the American economy and the requirements of leadership in a world threatened by Communism. And, I might add, men who represent the finest humanitarian traditions of these United States.

\$10 billion development loan program over a five-year period. We spend \$40 billions a year on defense and everyward perhaps even this is not enough. Can we not invest 5% of this amount in the future of Asia and Africa? I believe we can. I believe we should.

I believe the program should be largely in the form of long-term, low-interest loans which can compete with what the Soviets are doing.

I believe that the projects for which loans are provided should be thoroughly appraised by competent specialists so that the capital will be well spent. We must take into account the absorbative capacity of the recepient country. We must avoid waste and corruption.

The will be risks, but
The need is great. The challenge is inescapable. President

Truman's Point 4 idea was called "a bold new program." It was new,
but the majority in the Congress never permitted it to become bold.

: Since then the organize has increased.

The time for a "bold new program" is upon us. And I believe that

there are an increasing number of both houses who are willing to

match the challenge of our times with courage and boldness.

Walter Lippmann recently said something which every lawmaker and
every administrator would do well to ponder. He said if you want
public support for a Government program, make it big, bold and
imaginative—appeal to the public's sense of responsibility and
willingness to sacrifice. In attempting to second guess the public, I am
convined that heir leaders too often sell them short.

REFORE

Massive investment is essential, and much of the capital must come from private sources. It cannot and should not come only from governments. In fact, governments should invest only when private sources are unable or unwilling to meet the legitimate needs for development.

Private investors cannot affort to take large risks, Receiptiant countries should do all within their power to make private investment attractive, promising a reasonable return for the investor. I am glad to say that India has recently taken several measures to guarantee make private and investment attractive. Any potential investor should look into new opportunities in this, the pivotal nation in Asia.

But it is not possible for an underdeveloped country to

remove all risk to private investors. The countries needing aid

most desperately often are the very ones where the risk is greatest.

It is in cases of great need and risk, where both the economic and

political stakes are high, that government loans are called for.

And if the free would does not provide investment capital, we can be sure the Communist bloc will. It is unfortunate but understandable, that the the fear of Communism may prompt us to do what we should have done all along and what Great Britain in fact did in the 19th century.

Conclusion

. . .

I want to conclude by applauding Mr. Douglas Dillon, the Under Secretary of State for Economic Affairs, for his leadership in the area of long-term investment loans. I support him. But I fear that he has not gone far enough, Berhaps he is afraid that the support him.

Congress will not go along. Or, more likely, he may be afraid that the Scretary of State and the President will veto a more dynamic program.

Our nation and our people face a massive challenge today.

The economic, political, ideological and military offensive of a dedicated and determined foe confronts us at every turn. Can the American people respond to this challenge with courage and wisdom.

The answer is NO if we continue to sweep unpleasant facts under the rug of a complacent optimism. The answer is me NO if we are content would smooth words and soothing syrup from a man whose main task should be to jolt us from our lethergy. The answer is NO if we continue to prefer tail fins and mink-lined suburban nests to first-rate schools and a responsable if costly foreign policy.

But the answer need not be NO. I firmly believe that the American people have the moral resources and political wisdom to respond with courage and determination. I know we have the economic resources to to the job that needs to be done. We can do the job if we have leaders who lead, leaders who can impress us with the deeper meaning and urgency of the crisis. There is no substitute for leadership, leadership hard-headed enough to face the facts of life and warm-hearted enough to honor the cherished values of our Western religious heritage.

Minnesota Historical Society

Copyright in this digital version belongs to the Minnesota Historical Society and its content may not be copied without the copyright holder's express written permission. Users may print, download, link to, or email content, however, for individual use.

To request permission for commercial or educational use, please contact the Minnesota Historical Society.

