

Communist Liberation

In your editorial of Dec. 9, "Shape of the World," the present world events are described as "relations between a power bent on universal conquest and a power determined to resist." I am sure that this primitive view will and actually has disappointed many of your sophisticated readers who would expect a deeper insight into the nature of the conflicts prevailing in the world than the article implies.

Your attempt to present the wars of liberation as a means to "achieve the worldwide domination of communism" can only further mislead the people of your country but not the rest of the world, and, particularly, that part of it which is involved in the process of freeing itself from the vestiges of imperialism and colonialism.

Communism is a current in a huge stream where it merges with other currents of social changes and anti-colonialist movements proceeding in the same direction. They may differ by the character of the inner social forces operating inside this or that country, but they have one and the same feature—they have left that stage of history which belongs to the past and are moving towards another, newer and more progressive stage.

Wars of liberation and other anticolonial movements are not initiated by the Soviet Union. They are initiated by the peoples themselves who stand up against the new and old colonialist forces attempting to retain or to impose new forms of exploitation.

When the Soviet Union speaks out in support of those movements it only performs an act of solidarity which is expected from any nation sharing the common fate. When the United States is throwing all its military might to crush a movement of that kind it is willingly or

unwillingly placing itself in a position of a world gendarme employed by reactionary forces. In the years of the disintegration of feudalism the Holy Alliance led by the Austrian Empire and czarist Russia used to declare any attempt by the French revolutionary forces to display their solidarity with the cause of the American anticolonial revolution as a "devil's plot against the world of divine order."

History does not repeat itself, but there may arise similar situations. That is what is happening now with the only exception that the Holy Alliance against the so-called "Communist plot" is led by the United States which has become not only a self-appointed judge of each situation but also a self-appointed executioner of unilaterally adopted verdicts. As a result it finds itself facing an impasse like the one in Vietnam now.

Present attempts to find a way out by killing every resistance fighter and wiping out the northern part of the country with bombs show desperation rather than wisdom. And this places the whole world into an extremely dangerous situation when the so-called escalation becomes a sort of fuse to a chain reaction of ominous nature. The 11 years which have passed since the conclusion of the 1954 Geneva Agreement may seem to be a long way to go back. But the regaining of the wisdom inherent in that agreement presents a very good compensation for all that move in an opposite direction, particularly when the ominous sight of the brink becomes nearer with every step of the escalation. SPARTAK BEGLOV.

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[The author, who lives in Moscow, wrote the above while on a visit to the United States.]