

Fear of Communism

To the Editor:

It was recently reported that the United States will increase its aid to the police forces of many foreign countries "to help them deal with guerrillas and subversion." If one substitutes "Communism" for the last word in the preceding sentence, the purpose will be clear.

Here again the paranoiac fear and hatred of Communism that has so be-deviled our foreign policy since the end of World War II raises its ugly head.

During the period that this type of aid has been furnished, I can recall no instance when such aid was used to thwart *coups d'etats* by Fascist dictators or military juntas. It has frequently, however, been used to help suppress what the Communists call, not without reason in most cases, "wars of national liberation."

That we should, in our quixotic attempts to play policeman of the world, squander large sums of money which are sorely needed at home to avert possible disaster here, to combat Communism within the borders of foreign countries, most of them small and none of them of sufficient power to constitute a real threat to the security of the United States, is convincing testimony to the seriousness of the psychosis with which we are beset.

Some years ago Nikita Khrushchev remarked, in a semi-jocular vein, that the Russians would "bury us," causing such consternation that many of our more unstable citizens had to be restrained from charging into the streets, shouting "The Russians Are Coming," as in the subsequent hilarious movie of that title.

Who are we, indeed, to be seeking by force to prevent other nations from adopting a way of life which—though I myself would fight as vigorously as the next American, be he a John Bircher or a Ku Klux Klanner, to prevent its establishment here—has nevertheless already proved its viability and might, indeed, be able to bring some backward countries more rapidly into the twentieth century in a material sense than could a more democratic system?

No, Communism is not going to bury us, but it could well be that our unreasoning, paranoiac fear and hatred of it could eventually cause us to destroy ourselves by wasting, in our frenetic struggle against it throughout the world, vast sums that may be essential to the preservation of our own way of life in the United States.

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