

Karel Hujer:

A Global 'Munich'?

In the autumn of 1938, the pundits of England's Cliveden set had their ephemeral triumph when their tragic adept, Neville Chamberlain, acceded to Hitler's ill-fated Munich pact. That was detente with aggressive Naziism, supposedly "to save the peace of our time." Instead, England, all of Europe and the world, paid dearly for that illusion. Also, for one entire year England stood alone, isolated against the wrathful continent.

As we look backward historically, particularly since the end of World War II, the Nazis were dilettantes in their expansionist ambitions, compared with the patience, elusiveness and elasticity of Soviet Communist plans to overtake all of Europe while that continent listlessly goes its way and America remains exhausted after twelve futile years of war in Vietnam.

Little has changed since 1838 when, after visiting post-Napoleonic Russia, the Marquis de Custine characterized Russian Orthodox imperialism: "and that kneeling slave nourishes in his brain the dream of world domination." Russia's expansion under the aegis of Kremlin communist masters and that proleterian messianic pose is beyond the wildest dreams of the agnostic, Peter the Great, or the atheist, Lenin. Communism is today's imperialism. We also witness today the actual enactment of Lenin's Communist revolutionary prophecy: "Capitalists will loan us money to buy a noose on which we will hang them."

A striking similarity with Chamberlain's diplomacy now goes on foreshadowing precarious unforeseen global consequences. There is the same soothing promise of peace. Man has always dreamed of a golden age of peace. Tyrants started their conquests with this theme. The farce of the practically one-sided European security conference in Helsinki, now in Geneva, is by 80 per cent a sell-out favoring Soviet plans.

The ramparts of Western Europe, tottering in the decaying heritage of freedom, are ominously weakening. Russia now has five times more soldiers concealed behind barracks in Czechoslovakia than in 1968. Soviet armies of occupation in Eastern Europe together with their sa- trapes of captive nations actually have 30 times more soldiers than the U.S. in Europe. They will welcome the American suggestion of withdrawal of their armies. The splendid East-West highways in Czechoslovakia represent an excellent springboard of invasion all the way to Paris. Russia will justify her act of invasion as her own precautionary security, for has she not been invaded no less than six times in past history? Merry and slumbering Western Europe augurs this propitious time for the great westward push, which has occurred many times from Asia to Europe.

Detente with the Soviets, when international communism has renounced none of its tactics nor its boldest global ambitions, implies ominous consequences. The eminent Russian physicist, Andrei Sakharov, inside Soviet Russia, can possibly afford to warn the western world against treaty entanglements with his country because "detente without democratization is a dangerous delusion." Thus, diplomatic America, with its detente, is actually lining up with Soviet masters who terrorize and torture their domestic opponents, the so-called dissidents.

Moreover, any detente with the Soviet Union implies that the occupation of Czechoslovakia by Soviet armies is a closed chapter for America, although Bismarck warned:

"Whoever dominates Bohemia becomes master of Europe." Bismarck could have annexed Bohemia in 1866, yet this exponent of "realpolitik" advocated instead that Czechs were not aggressive people and European statesmanship must insist that this strategic heart of Europe must not be dominated by anyone.

Thus, the present detente is an echo of 1938, which brought the precarious isolation of England. Now with constant anti-American propaganda in Europe, particularly behind the Iron Curtain, undiminished by detente, America heads toward isolation. In this age of space conquest, this will not be in the dream of a Monroe doctrine. The generosity of the American Marshall Plan is long forgotten. Our cash-based system and power building mercantilism, whether private here or state there, cannot protect men from war and modern slavery.

The question then arises: Should we return to another cold war? Here we are caught by the perennial di-

lemma that war breeds war. The very nature of our civilization is based on the subtlety of cold war. Christian heritage plays only external formality for instead of challenging the new materialism, the church accepts its benefits and ignores the evils by which they came. There is no "war to end wars and make the world safe for democracy." This is an age of scientific discovery and spiritual decay, an age of ever greater concentration of power and wealth as against the appalling misery in technological slavery of the overwhelming masses.

We are at the end of an era. Our oppressing choice is between self-destruction and social regeneration through new spiritual impulses. These will not be established by edicts of any secular government on earth. They arise only through the agony of each individual, every honestly seeking man.

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