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COMMUNISM AND ANTI-COMMUNISM.

The decay and death of a civilization, as with that of the individual, comes from within. Communism is not the basic threat to our civilization. It is the product, the symptom, of a sick society. If communism were politically removed from all the communist countries, and our western 'capitalism' substituted, we should still suffer from all the misgovernment of which communism is and was a protest and rebellion. The sickness, not the symptoms, will destroy us if not *cured* in time. The sickness, from which all countries suffer in different degrees, is social inequality, privilege and consequent antagonism, i.e. legal and organised unbrotherliness, as opposed to social equality, freedom and co-operation. Its central and essential feature is injustice, which develops anti-social features, chiefly poverty and war, which in turn develop communism. Thus communism is an effect, not a cause. It is the natural re-action, based on ignorance of the social sciences, to the poverty and injustice which afflict the masses and which seem to the masses to leave no alternative.

Just as in the Labour Party the original intention was free trade and social equality, so in communism the original intentions were excellent. But good intentions are no substitute for 'social knowledge'. Communism has become a totalitarianism which rivals "capitalism" in oppressiveness and does not eliminate poverty.

It follows from all this that the cure for social evils is freedom, justice and voluntary co-operation. Without social knowledge these are impossible. As communism in both theory and practice is bankrupt, so are all "social" philosophies and practices which deviate from full justice either to the right or to the left.

The fallacy that communism can be defeated by violence and cruelty, as in the Vietnamese war of the 1960's, is even more pathetic and tragic than communism itself. After all, the intentions of communism is to eliminate the class-struggle by the triumph of the proletariat, whereas the *intention* of the ruling military class of the West is to perpetuate our present injustices, strife and violence. A splendidly poetic example of this philosophy is found in the 19th century "upper-class" poem "Clifton Chapel" by Henry Newbolt.

That this analysis is not merely academic but a sickening political philosophical reality is demonstrated all around us.

A close analysis of to-day's world social philosophy reveals that it is based on wrong thinking - the fallacy that social evil can be successfully eliminated by any means other than removing its cause. Innumerable proofs of this can be seen not only in the history of communism since

1917 but also in the behaviour of the West (particularly the U.S.A) towards Russia. In 1917 the Allies endeavoured to suppress 'the Revolution' by military action, and ever since then the USA has by its irrational military and nuclear strategy been the major force in cementing the Russian people's consistent support of the communist regime in Russia. There are now signs of change in Russia, and if the U.S.A. also changes one can confidently expect that as the Russian people socially and mentally develop they will throw off the communist superstitions.

My view is supported by a blood-freezing article entitled 'Vietnam: Mirror Image' in *Nation* of December 11, 1965. The author, Professor Marshall Sahlins of the University of Michigan, shows little acquaintance with the philosophy of freedom, but gives a horrifying picture of the American adoption of the communist philosophy and practice in the Vietnam War:

"Advanced anti-communism trades places with the enemy. It becomes opposite-communism, and opposites are alike in every respect save one.. In a remote provincial outpost I found two Americans who had appropriated to their own use draconic Chinese interrogation and indoctrination ("motivation" in the American 'newspeak'). The forced destruction of people's beliefs is no longer something 'they' do. Torturously extracted confession and conversion are no longer things we fight against".

Many well-intentioned people who conduct anti-communist campaigns ignore these facts. They condone social crimes if they are believed to be anti-communistic. They should totally abandon totalitarian and communistic philosophy, and support freedom and justice. Freedom is the only political power which will eliminate communism and all social cancers.

A government which abandons or ignores freedom and justice is delinquent, even if ignorant.