

## Only A More Mature View of An Ever More Unstable World Can Save Us

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the splendid game of war, it is to just such fundamental perspectives that we must turn if we are to edge back from the brink. The President at Chapel Hill spoke of the need for men and women "willing to take the long view, undisturbed by prejudices and slogans of the moment." Dare he himself take it?

### Still the Same Cold War Stereotypes

Yet Mr. Kennedy, even if he shows a capacity in private for this long view, is very far from acting upon it or expressing it in public. Except for the occasional hints about the East's genuine fears for their security in the German question, Mr. Kennedy cautiously remains attached to the politically safe black-and-white view of the world propagated by the government's multifarious agencies of propaganda since the cold war began. His principal answer to the opposition is to point, as he did at his last press conference, to the stepup since he took office in our military preparations. He speaks of defending national interest, but hesitates to say that our overriding national interest today is in peace itself. "Co-existence" remains a forbidden word in his vocabulary. How can the same man warn of universal cataclysm, of the next ten months deciding the fate of mankind for the next 10,000 years, as he did before the UN, and then boast at press conference that the output of M-14 rifles has been increased from 9,000 to 44,000 a month? What are those rifles for—World War IV, when we come up from the shelters? How can he talk as he did at Chapel Hill of the need for "national maturity" and lend himself to the wickedness of the campaign to assure the American people that by digging a hole in their backyards they can hide from the thermonuclear Apocalypse?

The secret of health, for nations as for men, is adjustment to change. Our domination of the world, which began with the fratricidal struggle of the European powers in World War I, is coming to an end. Russia will soon equal us in power, and China will later surpass both. A nationalist rising in the underdeveloped areas has brought a clamorous Third Force into the stale feud between capitalism and communism. There are instabilities everywhere which may

### Stop That 50-Megaton Monster

It seems to us the clear duty of the neutral nations at the UN immediately to sponsor an emergency resolution demanding that the Soviet Union call off the 50-megaton test Khrushchev has announced for Oct. 31. The best calculations at our U.S. radiation hearings in 1957 were that 10 megatons was about the safe annual limit for atmospheric explosions. The Russians have already set off about 10 megatons. Actually, as Dr. Ralph Lapp pointed out on a TV program last Sunday, Oct. 15, the northern latitudes get about ten times as much radiation from Russian tests in the Arctic as from American tests in the Pacific. He estimates that 3 megatons would be the safe annual limit for tests in the Arctic. The Russians have far exceeded these limits, and risk serious harm to their people (their press is still silent on their own tests) as well as others. In this connection we were immensely cheered by the report from Moscow in *Le Monde* (Oct. 10) which said that at the Soviet Poetry Day celebration, "free lance" poets gathered around the statue of the poet Mayakovsky and dared to read poems against nuclear explosions.

at any moment dwarf the Berlin crisis. A revolution in Venezuela, the disintegration of the Congo, race war in South Africa, may panic us into war by chain reaction if the American people are not prepared to see beyond vastly oversimplified slogans and an unconscious national arrogance like that which swept the Kaiser's Germany to disaster because of an assassin's bullet in the then distant unstable Balkans. We have a proud and secure place in the world as the bearer of a great tradition; in the long run Jefferson will be a source of universal inspiration for youth even in the world recast by Lenin and especially in that world. But we are imprisoned against wise adjustment by our own vapid stereotypes, and by irreconcilable allied Canutes in the Far East and in West Germany. On the level of practical politics, the President must have the courage to strike out and develop a more mature American public opinion or be defeated by cries of appeasement when he brings home a peaceful settlement on Berlin. On the higher level, this is his chance for greatness, if war sooner or later is to be avoided.

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