

# — SOVIET NEWS —

PUBLISHED BY THE PRESS DEPARTMENT OF THE SOVIET EMBASSY IN LONDON

Phone: ABBEY 2154

Grams: SOVNEWS, LONDON

UNIVERSITY of WARWICK LIBRARY  
Maitland / Sara Collection

519-521, GRAND BUILDINGS  
TRAFALGAR SQUARE, W.C.2

No. 1541

Wednesday, September 25, 1946

## J. V. STALIN'S REPLY TO ALEXANDER WERTH

ON September 24, TASS transmitted from Moscow the following answers given by J. V. Stalin to questions put by the Moscow correspondent of the *Sunday Times*, Mr. Alexander Werth, in a note addressed to Stalin on September 17, 1946.

**Question:** Do you believe in a real danger of a "new war" concerning which there is so much irresponsible talk at present throughout the world? What steps ought to be taken to prevent war if such a danger exists?

**Answer:** I do not believe in a real danger of a "new war." Those who are now clamouring about a "new war" are chiefly military-political intelligence agents and their few supporters among civilian officials. They need this clamour if only for the purpose—

(A) Of scaring certain naive politicians from among their counter-agents with the spectre of war, and thus helping their Governments to wring as many concessions as possible from counter-agents;

(B) Of obstructing for a certain time the reduction of military budgets in their countries;

(C) Of putting a brake on the demobilisation of troops, and thus preventing a rapid growth of unemployment in their countries.

One should strictly differentiate between the hue and cry about a "new war" which is now taking place, and a real danger of a "new war," which does not exist at present.

**Question:** Do you believe that Great Britain and the United States of America are consciously creating a "capitalist encirclement" of the Soviet Union?

**Answer:** I do not think that the ruling circles of Great Britain and of the United States of America could create a "capitalist encirclement" of the Soviet Union even if they so desired, which, however, I cannot assert.

**Question:** In the words Mr. Wallace used in his last speech, can Britain, Western Europe and the United States be certain that Soviet policy in Germany will not become an instrument of Russian ambitions aimed against Western Europe?

**Answer:** I believe that for the Soviet Union to make use of Germany against Western Europe and the United States of America is precluded. I believe that it is precluded not only because the Soviet Union is bound with Great Britain and France by the Treaty of Mutual Assistance against German aggression, and with the United States of America by the decisions of the Potsdam Conference of the three Great Powers, but also because a policy of making use of Germany against Western Europe and the United States of America would mean the departure of the Soviet Union from its fundamental national interests. Briefly speaking, the policy of the Soviet Union in relation to the German problem reduces itself to the demilitarisation and democratisation of Germany. I believe that the demilitarisation and democratisation of Germany form one of the most important guarantees of the establishment of a stable and lasting peace.

**Question:** What is your opinion concerning the accusations to the effect that the policy of the Communist Parties of Western Europe "is dictated by Moscow"?

**Answer:** I regard this accusation as an absurdity borrowed from the bankrupt arsenal of Hitler and Goebbels.

**Question:** Do you believe in the possibility of friendly and lasting co-operation between the Soviet Union and the Western democracies despite the existence of ideological differences, and in the "friendly competition" between the two systems which Wallace mentioned in his speech?

**Answer:** I believe in it absolutely.

**Question:** During the sojourn here of the Labour Party delegation you, as far as I understand, expressed certainty of the possibility of friendly relations between the Soviet Union and Great Britain. What could help in establishing these relations so ardently desired by the broad masses of the British people?

**Answer:** I am really certain of the possibility of friendly relations between the Soviet Union and Great Britain. The strengthening of political, trade and cultural ties between these countries would considerably contribute to the establishment of such relations.

**Question:** Do you believe the earliest withdrawal of all American troops from China to be vital for future peace?

**Answer:** Yes, I do.

**Question:** Do you believe that virtual monopoly by the U.S.A. of the atomic bomb constitutes one of the main threats to peace?

**Answer:** I do not believe the atomic bomb to be as serious a force as certain politicians are inclined to think. Atomic bombs are intended for intimidating the weak-nerved, but they cannot decide the outcome of war, since atomic bombs are by no means sufficient for this purpose. Certainly, monopolist possession of the secret of the atomic bomb does create a threat, but at least two remedies exist against it:—

(A) Monopolist possession of the atomic bomb cannot last long;

(B) Use of the atomic bomb will be prohibited.

**Question:** Do you believe that with the further progress of the Soviet Union towards Communism the possibilities of peaceful co-operation with the outside world will not decrease as far as the Soviet Union is concerned? Is "Communism in one country" possible?

**Answer:** I do not doubt that the possibilities of peaceful co-operation, far from decreasing, may even grow. "Communism in one country" is perfectly possible, especially in a country like the Soviet Union.