

From the Office of
Senator Hubert H. Humphrey
140 Senate Office Building
Washington 25, D. C.
National 8-3120, Ext. 881

FOR RELEASE
Sunday, A. M. Newspapers
May 31, 1953

Soviet Russia's imperialistic communism may "strangle freedom in the world even without war" in a military sense, Senator Hubert H. Humphrey (D-Minn.) declared last night in an address before the United Nations Institute and Alumni Banquet at Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter, Minnesota.

Describing the Kremlin's latest tactics as "seeking to aggravate the economic differences of the western world... and isolate the United States from its allies", Senator Humphrey termed it the "greatest danger I see ahead".

Tracing the changes in Soviet Foreign policy to the Communist Party Congress held in Moscow last October, Senator Humphrey said:

"The change in tactics of the Kremlin did not begin with the announced death of Stalin. It began, in fact, in his own lifetime... and the latest Kremlin moves were carefully charted in advance...

"It is tremendously important today that we recognize and understand this shifting course of Soviet strategy, for it is striking us where we are most vulnerable.

"Let us remember that the Kremlin was watching us last fall, as we engaged in our great national election debates where the unrest of the American people, in an era of half-war, half-peace, was exploited to its fullest...

"The American people are, Thank God, an outspoken people -- but Moscow knows what they are thinking, just as Washington does.

"Moscow knows that the American people are anxious to cut military spending, and thereby to cut taxes. It knows that the American people are traditionally opposed to violence in international affairs -- and it evidently hopes that a peace in Korea, or even continued talk about chances of peace in Korea, will bring about a defense cut-back in America which will leave the world unprepared for the Soviet's next warlike move, whenever they may choose to make it.

"Moscow hopes for a large reduction in foreign aid, which

may leave some of the rest of the world free for Soviet expansion, without a shot being fired..

"Moscow hopes to wean trade away from the western bloc, to secure strategic materials it needs for completion of its own military expansion goals set for 1955..

"And, most important of all, Moscow hopes to stir up disunity among the western allies over economic conflicts, that will undermine all we have endeavored to do in unifying the western world for our common defense."

"It's on the economic front, Senator Humphrey warned, that the Kremlin is now moving against democracy.

"It's a new kind of warfare with which we are confronted, in one sense, yet in another it's as old as military strategy itself.

"We may as well frankly face the facts: we are less prepared to combat Russia's latest tactics, than we would be prepared to combat military attack.

"Military attack unifies a nation, arousing its people to their greatest unity, and greatest spirit of sacrifice.

"Can we arouse the same unity, the same spirit of sacrifice, against a new and more subtle attack against the bastions of freedom that may prove even more deadly in the end?

"Russia is gambling that we can't.

"We must see that we do....

"It is clear that the strategists of the Kremlin are expecting us to lower our guard. They are fostering discontent and anxiety among our allies, and preying upon America's desire for lower taxes. They are playing a desperate and cruel game of dividing us, and enticing us into a position of weakness.

"Are we so blind that we cannot see through such sham?

"All of our influence, all of our intelligence, and yes, perhaps even sacrifice of personal material progress will be needed to help firm up the hand of the President, and guide the country's destiny down paths of mature judgement, instead of reckless irresponsibility.

"To permit our great system of mutual security and defense to be split asunder and weakened would put us in the tragic position of being unable to negotiate for peace. We would be compelled to bargain from weakness -- an indefensible position.

"The only hope for any success, out of high level discussions and negotiations, is for the western allies to be strong -- and firmly united.

"And our only hope of staying strong, and staying united, is to thoroughly understand the nature of Communism and the strategy of its Kremlin bosses -- then weigh soberly, with mature judgement, the relation of every action we take to the ultimate outcome of this struggle dividing the world", Senator Humphrey declared.

Distribution:

St. Peter newspaper

St. Peter radio station (Red Wing)

Rolf Felstad) Mpls. Tribune

~~Wally Mitchell~~

Jack McDonald

Mitchell

Newhall & ~~McDonald~~ - Mpls. Star

Neumeier - St. Paul Press

City Desk - Duluth

AP & UP - Minneapolis

WCCO, KSTP AND WTCH

*Sent
Arrival - Special
5/27*



Minnesota Historical Society

Copyright in this digital version belongs to the Minnesota Historical Society and its content may not be copied without the copyright holder's express written permission. Users may print, download, link to, or email content, however, for individual use.

To request permission for commercial or educational use, please contact the Minnesota Historical Society.



www.mnhs.org