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Excerpts of Remarks of
Senator Hubert H. Humphrey
before the
PROTESTANT MINISTERS ASSOCIATION
OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
12:00 Noon -- May 23, 1955

American Foreign Policy today hangs in the balance. It is clear that the Soviet Union is in the midst of a major psychological offensive against us. Its offensive takes the form of a series of moves designed to relax the international tensions.

What are we to do? How are we to react? Are we to respond merely by saying "the Russian wolf may change its fur, but never changes its mind?" This is undoubtedly an accurate analysis of the situation, but it would be unwise for us to so respond. For to respond in this uncooperative fashion might well place us in the eyes of the world as among those forces who were opposed to peace and thus play into the hands of Soviet propagandists.

Rather our task must be to welcome the opportunity which the new Soviet tactics give us.

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We should welcome the relaxation of tensions because it fits in with our objective of world peace. We know that wars will not solve international problems, but will only create others. We know that war indeed threatens our very survival as a civilization. Any step in the direction of relaxed tensions must be welcomed by us.

We should also welcome the new international developments because these give us time.

But time is important only if used properly. If we make proper use of the time which now will be ours we can strengthen the forces of freedom in the world and strengthen the hope of a permanent peace. If, however, we waste the time and sit back comfortably to let evolution take its place we will learn to our sorrow that "the devil too evolves." We can be certain that the Soviets will use the time to their advantage. Let us dedicate ourselves to peace and to freedom during the time that is given us to do so.

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What does this mean for us? It means that with the possibility of the Big Four conference at the summit now very likely American foreign policy must re-emphasize and underscore the political, the psychological, the social and the economic forces at work in the world. This is to our advantage. We are not warriors in the strict interpretation of that term. Our history is traditionally one of expanding political democracy: The fulfillment of equality of opportunity; the realization of human equality in law and the social order, and a dedication to a rising standard of living. It is these very virtues that fit the present world scene.

It is time that we re-assess our assets and walked in the stature and strength and competence that our history and our present circumstances verify. In a world that is desperately in need of capital, we have the greatest capital resource among all nations. In a world where people are anxious for the blessings of science and technology, we are richly endowed with these blessings.

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In a world where the majority of people are ill housed, ill fed and ill clad, we are privileged to have an abundance of food and fiber and the knowledge of scientific understanding for health and shelter.

The peoples of the world are no longer impressed by the threat of nuclear war, which leads only to desperation and hopelessness. They are looking for a clear and challenging political faith that will arouse them to self-determination for their liberation from both political, and social tyranny.

This inspiration we have. This is our traditional message to the world. This message found in the Declaration of Independence is what has served to give faith to millions of people seeking dignity in all corners of the globe. This message of faith in human brotherhood and in human equality is our reservoir of good will in the world.

The the extent that we have lost friends we have done so because we have forgotten the message and forgotten to preach the message. The task is easy. It is to preach and practice

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the Judai-Christian spirit of human brotherhood, human equality ,
political democracy and economic opportunity.

Specifically this means the following:

1. Greater use of our capital through international organizations such as the UN, the World Bank, and other international financial development groups. Doing much more than we ever contemplate, not on the basis of gifts, but on the basis of long-terms loans.
2. Stepping up our own Point Four; but even more important, going through the UN and offering to greatly expand UN technical assistance. Let's take the initiative in this area.
3. Use our blessings of food and fiber. Let's proceed through the UN, offering vast quantities of food and fiber to be placed under the general direction of the UN Food and Fiber Reserve. Let's seize the initiative. We have the food and fiber - we can call upon others to share.

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4. Let us set a good standard at home -revise our immigration laws, immediately liberalize our refugee act, implement our program of civil rights.

5. A dramatic expansion of student exchange, along with the exchange of technicals, professional people, journalists, and others engaged in public communication.

6. Unstinting support of the UN, with particular emphasis on the World Health organization, Food and Agriculture, Childrens Emergency Fund. These programs represent America's compassion and generosity exercised in a spirit of international cooperation.

Let us face up to the fact that in recent weeks the Soviet and her satellites have gained the initiative: Red China at Bandung with their propose to negotiate; the Soviet with her initiative on the Austrian peace treaty. The one example of American initiative is the proposal of Senator George for a Big Four conference. We can lead, we can be the challenger. But we must do it in concert with others. This is why I emphasize our activity through the UN

The world is now eager and hopeful that disarmament will

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proceed and proceed successfully. I do not know whether they will succeed, but I do know that the American government should make every effort to have them succeed. I welcome the proposal of the President in creating the Office of Special Assistant in Charge of Disarmament. I now hope that my own proposal for the creation of a Special Subcommittee on Disarmament that is to match the action of the Executive and strengthen our hand for disarmament will be accepted.

Let us instill spirit and meaning into the disarmament discussions by demonstrating imagination. Let us offer to join with the rest of the world in reducing and then eliminating our armaments race accompanied by a joint pledge that we spend a portion of the money we thereby save in helping to eliminate poverty in the world. This proposal of the late Senator Brien McMahon is one which should constantly be in the forefront of our minds and our discussions as we participate in the disarmament discussions.

The policy of threat and force has lost its effectiveness.

The people of the world cry out. We must make sure that it is peace with honor. This will require that we know exactly what we need, what we are prepared to do, what we and our allies want, and that we must be firmly united in our convictions and our proposals.

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