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NEWSPAPERS AGREE U.S. NOW LOSING 'COLD WAR' UNDER GOP, SENATOR HUMPHREY SAYS

America's newspaper editors, while overwhelmingly Republican, recognize "more honestly and realistically than the Republican speech writers" that our country is "losing the cold war", Senator Hubert H. Humphrey declared today in an address before the St. Peter's Lion Club.

"The American Society of Newspaper Editors reached that conclusion by a vote of 2 to 1 at their annual meeting in Washington this year," Senator Humphrey said. "It reflects their concern over the fact that our alliances have begun to crumble, that we are losing friends among the uncommitted nations, and that our reputation has diminished all around the world.

"Four years ago, American prestige in the world was high. Democratic leadership had successfully sought and fostered bi-partisan support in foreign affairs. NATO and the Marshall Plan were monuments to joint effort with our allies. The Truman Doctrine, the Berlin Airlift and our swift response in Korea had taught the Communists that we were serious when we said we intended to block aggression.

"The United Nations was being utilized, not by-passed; the Point Four program was well under way.

"Consider almost any portion of the globe today, and examples of the deterioration of our position can be found.

"In Europe, our chief alliances have been badly strained by policy differences over Suez, Cyprus, North Africa, German rearmament and East-West trade. On items of major importance to the future of Western Europe, like the strengthening of NATO, this Republican administration has paid lip service to the objectives -- and failed to follow through.

"In the Middle East, a vacillating policy has alternately exasperated the young democracy of Israel and won us increasing enmity among the Arab nations as well. By her arms agreements with Egypt and Afghanistan, the Soviet Union has obtained footholds in the Middle East which have been Kremlin objectives for generations.

"Our relations with India, the largest democracy on earth, have suffered many reverses since 1953, all of them aggravated by our ill-conceived arms agreement with Pakistan. Instead of working steadfastly to retrieve our position in South Asia, President Eisenhower withdrew Ambassador Cooper from New Delhi for political purposes in Kentucky.

"In the United Nations itself, the decline in American prestige has frequently been reflected in the increased measure of voting agreement with the Soviet Union; 60% of the members of the UN agreed more with the Soviet Union in General Assembly votes in 1955 than in 1954. Here as elsewhere lately, the Soviet Union has registered diplomatic gains, while we, in a frenzy of official activity, have drifted and bided our time."

Senator Humphrey said the nation's press "should soberly consider its responsibility to the nation's safety", in facing up to its inconsistency in "admitting our foreign policy failures and shortcomings, yet supporting the very people responsible for them".



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