
U.S.S.R.'s Gromyko: 'The triumph of reason'

Unlike Western Europe and the Nonaligned countries, the Soviet Union's presentation of Sept. 25 by Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko did not address at all the questions of economic and social development and, surprisingly, Gromyko did not even mention the just-concluded Nonaligned conference in Havana, Cuba.

But his speech was remarkable for its unrelenting emphasis on the theme that the world must have peace, and that the ever-present threat of nuclear war must be eradicated if the international community can proceed with its urgent tasks.

"The ancient Greeks," said Gromyko, "left us wise myths whose beauty lies in glorifying what is human in man." But today there are efforts to make man "despair of the triumph of reason." This was perhaps the sharpest attack that Gromyko could have made on the speech by Secretary Vance quoted above, for Vance, indeed, has tried to engender despair.

Although we do not have space here to present details, Gromyko went in detail through virtually every international crisis-spot and area in a thorough review of the world strategic situation since the signing of SALT II, with a special emphasis on the threat of the "China card" and the Middle East crisis. Excerpts follow.

... It is becoming a tradition in some countries to play out scenarios of military conflicts. Look, they say, that's how things are going to unfold. And estimates are made of the casualties and the number of cities to be swept away. Tens or even hundreds of millions of human lives are written off in those callous calculations.

The ancient Greeks, and not they alone, left us wise myths whose beauty lies in glorifying what is human in man. To no credit of our contemporaries, other myths are invented today which are designed to stupefy man with pessimism and make him despair of the triumph of reason. They depict war as something unavoidable.

There is no doubt as to the purposes for which these myths are invented and the policies which they serve.

What a huge number of spurious films, books, articles, and speeches of politicians and quasi-politicians are produced to make people believe the fictitious stories about the source of a threat to peace.

One example is the campaign launched with regard to Cuba, in the course of which all sorts of falsehoods are being piled up concerning the policies of Cuba and the Soviet Union. But the truth is that this propaganda is totally without foundation in reality and is indeed

based on falsehoods. The Soviet Union and Cuba have already so declared. And our advice on this score is simple: the artificiality of this entire question must be honestly admitted and the matter closed....

A considerable period of time has already elapsed since the question was raised about reaching an agreement on termination of the production of all types of nuclear weapons and gradual reduction of their stockpiles until they have been completely liquidated. In our days there is no more burning problem than that of removing the threat of nuclear war. Every reasonable person understands this. And it cannot be effectively solved without stopping the assembly line from producing an incessant flow of weapons of monstrous destructive power—nuclear warheads, bombs and shells.

As we have repeatedly stated, the Soviet Union is prepared to discuss this cardinal problem together with other countries and it is proposing that specific negotiations be initiated. All the nuclear Powers without exception are duty bound to take part in them.

It is sometimes said that termination of the production of nuclear weapons and their liquidation are too difficult a task. But can this be a reason for not starting the search for ways and means to resolve the problem? We are sure that reaching an appropriate agreement is not beyond the possible if States, and first of all the nuclear States, adopt a responsible approach....

Today the basis for peaceful cooperation of States on the European continent is more solid than it was yesterday. Favourable changes have taken place in relations between socialist and capitalist countries in Europe.

Soviet-French cooperation is on the rise. There is a considerable degree of mutual understanding and agreement on major issues of European and world politics, and accordingly there is a possibility for the further development of fruitful cooperation.

The development of our relations with the Federal Republic of Germany has been following a positive trend. Both sides appreciate the mutual advantages of what has been achieved, recognizing that a good deal could yet be accomplished in the future. I should like to express the hope that there would be no move on the part of the FRG that would reduce such possibilities for the future, that would run counter to the line at peace in Europe and at easing international tensions.

We are interested in the consistent development of Soviet-British relations. We are hopeful that there is a desire for this in Britain, too....

What is needed in the first place to resolve any important international problem of a political, economic or other nature is an atmosphere of peace. And whether peace will be more durable or less stable depends to an important extent on the state of relations between the Soviet Union and the United States. That conclusion is objective and indisputable.