

surance to Protestants concerning its ultimate intentions? At many points Protestants are to blame for the bad relations between Roman Catholics and themselves, but at this point only Roman Catholics can provide the needed reassurance, and without such reassurance these relations cannot be expected to become permanently better.

JOHN C. BENNETT.

Editorial Notes

Things are going badly in the world community of nations. There is no real accord or understanding between the great powers. The United Nations Security Council has not been able to settle the Iranian question in any final form. The Paris conference of foreign ministers is equally unable to settle anything. It moves from the problems of Trieste, to those of Tripolitania, to Bulgaria, to Austria, to Germany and to Italy, but in every instance it fails to reach an accord.

There is quite obviously no real trust between the great powers. The Russians are particularly intransigent. The suspicion grows that they do not want the system of mutual security to work. At any rate they have done everything to bring discredit upon the various instrumentalities of that system.

Russia is still a "mystery wrapped in an enigma," in the phrase of Winston Churchill. No one is quite certain about the motives which prompt Russia. Are they actuated by their strength or by their weakness? Perhaps they are motivated by both. Perhaps they know themselves ultimately weaker than the powers arrayed against them, though they think they are momentarily stronger in effective divisions. Perhaps they think they can use their momentary military advantage to gain further points of strategic security as protection in an ultimate conflict.

They seem more certain of this ultimate conflict than we are. Perhaps our own strategic plans have caused this fear. Perhaps it is the fruit of the Marxist dogma of an irreconcilable conflict between the capitalist and communist world. It may be that they merely pretend such fears. Who can say? What is clear is that the world is stumbling to disaster.

This drama of a world unable to find the spiritual or moral resources to overcome the perils created by the technical advances of modern civilization, and marching toward a doom which everyone wants to avert, is enough to elicit cries of contrition and despair. There are no obvious answers to any of the vexing problems which face us. The best we

can do at the moment is not to add hysteria to the other causes of blindness and stupidity. If we have patience we may still find a way.

A national committee, headed by Herbert Lehman, former head of the UNRRA, and Clarence Pickett, of the American Friends Service Committee, has appealed to President Truman to double the cereal, meat and fat shipments which were to be sent monthly, according to the quotas announced by Truman and Hoover a month ago. The committee contends that these quotas are quite inadequate to fulfill American responsibilities toward a starving world. It asks the President to use surplus army stocks for the immediate crisis.

This appeal is another indication of the response of the American people to the seriousness of the situation. It is becoming increasingly apparent that even more stringent measures must be adopted, than now contemplated. Rationing must undoubtedly be reinstated, the sooner the better.

The report of the joint British-American commission on Palestine, asking for a special immigration of 100,000 Jews into Palestine, achieved the maximum common counsel between the two nations on this question. But Prime Minister Attlee would seem justified in declaring that we ought to support with continuing responsibility, a policy which we are essentially forcing on Britain.

The Joint commission arrived at a unanimous verdict by accepting the American proposal for 100,000 immigrants to Palestine, which the British were inclined to reject; and by rejecting the proposal for a Jewish state or even a Palestinian state with a Jewish majority. Its recommendation leaves ultimate issues unanswered and centers upon the immediate plight of the Jewish people in Europe.

Christians are all too prone to forget the desperate situation in which thousands of Jews in Europe still find themselves. There is not sufficient economic or political health in Europe to guarantee the restitution of their security. Even this Palestinian immigration is not a sufficient answer for their problems.

The election in France in which a majority of the French people rejected the new constitution, on the obvious ground that it offered too many opportunities for a communist regime to come to power, proves that western Europe will not easily accept the communist solution of its problems. It will do so only if the Western powers offer no creative alternatives.

R. N.