

PSYCHOLOGY-PSYCHIATRY

Mind vs. Hydrogen Bomb

Atomic scientists, government leaders and military men need the aid of psychologists and psychiatrists in assaying the H-Bomb crisis.

By WATSON DAVIS

➤ NOW that the H-bomb has exploded the atomic "cold war" to a new crisis, how about calling in the psychologists and psychiatrists to help the physicists, diplomats and military men?

There is far more to the critical situation than hydrogen, deuterium, plutonium—or aircraft carriers, world-girdling bombers, and guided missiles.

Minds of men, feelings of masses of people, customs of the centuries, the lack of information or the misinformation behind and before the iron curtain—these are ingredients of the impending explosion in international relations that can now trigger city-destroying atomic energy.

When we are sick it is but human not to want to see the doctor. The world is sick, with fear, anger, and desperation, but we flex our nuclear muscles to convince ourselves that we are strong, unafraid, and can lick anyone who puts up his atomic fists.

The practitioners who treat sick human minds and feelings are modest people, pre-occupied with individual human troubles. Only occasionally are they bold enough to prescribe for the world, for they realize the magnitude of the task and the lack of certainty of a cure for the disease of impending war.

No one in high place in our government is seeking their advice upon what may prove the crisis of civilization. Yet all of us have questions to ask the psychologists and the psychiatrists, especially those who have dealt with lives influenced by the ideas and spirit of the Communist-dominated, dictator-ruled world.

Could a hundred H-bombs devastating Russia or the USA bring peace to the world? Would \$50,000,000,000 (McMahon's proposal) buy immunity to an atomic arms race? Is it hunger in the stomach or the thirst for security that turns peoples toward communism or toward reliance on a dictator? Do cancers of intolerance, prejudice and money greed in our own country infect our ability to achieve world peace? How far can the word of a ruler, like Stalin, be trusted? If the group around Stalin were wiped out, would it change the cold war?

Some of these questions (and everyone can add more) are spot and transitory, while others are basic. The diagnosis of the doctors on some of the symptoms may be indefinite, but they may have mental,

social or political medicine to suggest that may not be available to congressmen, generals and admirals, or cabinet members.

While the war was still on, before the first atomic bomb was exploded, 2,000 psychologists agreeing 99.4% told us about human nature and peace. In the present crisis some basic principles then presented are pertinent:

War can be avoided. War is not born in men, it is built into men.

In planning for permanent peace, the coming generation should be the primary focus of attention.

Racial, national, and group hatreds can, to a considerable degree, be controlled.

Condescension toward "inferior" groups destroys our chance for a lasting peace.

The root-desires of the common people of all lands are the safest guide to framing a peace.

The trend of human relationships is toward ever wider units of collective security.

"Neglect of basic principles may breed new wars," said the psychologists in 1945, "no matter how well-intentioned our political leaders may be."

A lot of atoms have been split in the past five years. There are new ingredients in the international caldron. If such experts take a new look at the situation, something may come of it.

Above all, it must be a careful, unemotional look with the attitude of the research worker and the clinician. Protagonists and minds-made-up will not be effective in any such consultation upon the mentally disturbed world. And the consultation may not come too late.

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NUCLEAR PHYSICS-ENGINEERING

For A-Bomb-Proof House, Build To Resist Quake

➤ BUILD your new house or factory to withstand the most violent hurricane or the strongest earthquake and it may stand up under a half-mile distant blast of an old-fashioned fission atomic bomb.

But the government's tentative recommendations on building and bridge construction to resist atomic blasts are admittedly of pre-hydrogen bomb vintage.



HOW SPEEDY THE JUMP?—A time interval meter electrically measures the speed of ski jumper Arthur Devlin, one of America's leading jumpers. The device casts two parallel light beams across the lip of the take off and measures the elapsed time between the break of the two beams by the skier's body. The speed was found to average from 46.4 to 55.1 miles per hour.