

**MY EXPERIENCE WITH COMMUNISM, PARTICULARLY**

**IN**

**SOVIET RUSSIA.**

**by**

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Mr. Chairman, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

Two sentiments have haunted me since I accepted your invitation to address you tonight. One, a deep sense of honour and gratefulness for the privilege of addressing you. The second, a feeling of responsibility, which influences me in selecting the subject "MY EXPERIENCE WITH COMMUNISM, PARTICULARLY IN SOVIET RUSSIA".

Before I start describing my own experience, it would perhaps be necessary to say a few introductory words about Soviet Imperialism in general, and also about its backbone, the Communist Party of Soviet Russia (the official title for Soviet Russia, as you know, is the "Union of Soviet Socialist Republics" - U.S.S.R.). Then I should also mention why the Soviets were able, and still are -- to fool the democracies.

There are several reasons. The main one, which by the way, fooled most individuals and nations is that: The written religion of the Communist doctrine is in absolute disagreement with the daily practice, and countries, states and nations which lack this experience, or which know Communism only from necessary international business relations, wonder about some of the events in the Communist countries and the complaints of unhappy citizens behind the Iron Curtain.

The lack of such experience is quite understandable. Up until the year 1945, there was hardly a state or nation in the world which had a coalition government including Communists. It is in the ideology of Communism that any participation of Communists in a Government is qualified as treason against the proletariat, and even Social Democratic parties in the government were labelled as bourgeois traitors of the working class.

This political practice is one reason for the above mentioned lack of experience. The other is idealogical!

Communism is a totalitarian political conception which rejects for its own sake any co-operation in coalition government, or any permanent compromise. Any Communist attempt to form a coalition government, even if it should be meant sincerely would undermine the very foundation of Communism. After all, Communists know that Marxism as a political concept is a well tested philosophical, political and economic system, which could urge its view only in the autocratic way without control and competition. A half-way medium is excluded. This is an absolute axiom and human society living under the rule of other political systems, especially under a democracy, may try to form a coalition with Communists in government or in the United Nations or elsewhere, but there is no hope for success.

My statement does not represent an appeal against Communism on material grounds alone. Besides physical defeat, it is first necessary to prepare an ideological defeat, a defeat of its immoral dialectical doctrine and immoral tactics in practice. Only then, would people be permanently liberated from this evil!

The period between 1945-1962 could be considered as a huge experiment especially in the United Nations and Disarmament Commissions, to gain Communists for workable co-operation, and by doing so, divert Communism from its totalitarian road and engage it in the fields dealing with material interests, but nevertheless respecting the rights of individuals. So far, this attempt has completely failed everywhere. The years ahead will give us a more conclusive answer, but I do not expect any different results from what we have right now.

My reason, of course, is based on my experience with Communists in a coalition government, as a member of Parliament in Czechoslovakia until 1948. It may be useful to reveal our experiences before the world. We, in our old country, are poorer about one illusion, but richer about our experience and perhaps authorized to speak up. After all, the whole world will face the same experience sooner or later.

Up until the year 1939, hardly any neighbour of the U.S.S.R. knew about the terror of Stalin's hordes. Not even we in Czechoslovakia, only some 50 miles from the western frontier of Soviet Russia, knew for instance what was going on in the fertile Ukraine, where 8 million people died from hunger under Krushchev's administration. We did not believe the refugees telling us about concentration camps in Siberia, simply because the news was so terrible that we refused to believe them.

Who, until the outbreak of war in 1941 visited the U.S.S.R. either as an economist, ambassador (envoy) or sportsman? He had to go on a conducted tour. His every step was carefully planned ahead. He was shown only what was on display, model collective farms, factories, universities, the ballet, and the art galleries. He was closely watched so that he could not be on his own. Newspapermen were not allowed to interview people freely and at their own choice, and if such a thing did happen the NKVD (a political secret police) knew about it within a short while.

Only after 1941 was the curtain raised and millions of people rolled back and forth. Those who lived for 20 years in Russia learned about Europe crippled by the war, and those who lived in Europe had the chance to see the U.S.S.R. for the first time with the naked eye. The moment came when it was useless to issue orders of silence. A Russian man realized that the fear melted away and he became talkative about his experiences during the past 20 years.

I was one of those millions who learned about the U.S.S.R. because the confusing events of World War II caught me in the U.S.S.R. in the uniform of a Captain of the Slovakian Army.

What were the people telling us in the Ukraine, in Galicia, or elsewhere? These people, due to an agreement between Hitler and Stalin in 1939, were thrown from a democratic Poland into a bolshevic hell!

What was it I heard from a bank manager, a Jew named Weiss, who accommodated me for a few days and who knew about the Nazi terror, especially against the Jewish people? If a Christian would speak his mind against the Soviets and think that Nazis (Germans) are better, it would be perhaps understandable. Because one could have co-operated against his own will with the Nazis just to save his own neck. But when a Jewish man, torn between the two evils, preferred to live under Nazism - this was something I was not able to understand.

Mr. Weiss told me: "They (the Soviets) came to our Polish city 2 hours after the German army retreated from Lwow. They covered every inch of our land like grasshoppers. The P.A. system played military marches. Chocolate bars were distributed, people cried with joy and danced in the streets. The general joy lasted for only one week.

The Soviets were careful at the beginning. They did everything to scare the population and prevent a panic. They consolidated their positions. But then, they showed their true face ..... During the next half year, peasants and farmers disappeared in "Kulchoses" (collective farms), tradesmen were forced into confiscated factories. Polish administration and civil service was replaced by Soviet commissars and the terror began. The whole nation was actually called politically "unreliable" and predestined to liquidation. Every day, regardless of the hard winter, people were taken to Siberia in cattle cars. Nobody knew where and why?"

Then my landlord Weiss described his own position in the following way: "I lived in a big apartment house and I couldn't sleep from fear. Especially in the early hours we used to hear knocking on the doors, trampling of heavy boots and when the morning came we had no neighbours. We all lived in fear. My wife and these little children, waiting for the moment when there would be a knock on the door. I had already been dismissed from my duties in the bank and when the police were gone, we were a little bit relieved, because we knew that we had another day to live ...".

And just as today, you can tell the most convincing stories about Communism and people will not believe; also my Jewish friend did not believe when I told him that Nazis are even worse, especially when it comes to the Jewish race. I know that today he is dead. Dead, perished perhaps with his whole family somewhere in Oswiedczim, but at that time, he could not believe that there was something worse than the bolshevik terror in Polish Ukraine!

Now, let us stop for a while in the U.S.S.R. in the thirties, and see what was happening in that huge and richly fertile country.

COMMUNISM ALWAYS STRUGGLED FOR RECOGNITION OF ITS SO-CALLED "RELIGION" (doctrine) at any price.

Between 1930-1931 private ownership was completely abolished and Stalin issued an order to liquidate the "Kulaks" (Kulak means the same as our farmer) because they were still not dependent on the state, its support and relief, and its national economy. "Kulaks" represented at that time, the last element feared by the Government and they had to be disposed of.

The mass deportations to Siberia did not break the "Kulaks" resistance (that is resistance more or less passive) and they shunned promises. They refused to join the Kolkhoses voluntarily and when they were pushed by force, they started to kill the domestic animals and quit cultivating the fields.

The disastrous results came in 1933, when in the spring-time the hunger was so terrible, that people ate not only cats, rats, dogs, but were also on the verge of cannibalism.

When and if, the historians will be able to describe all the mishaps and the calvary of a Nation deserted by God, the world will be ashamed of mankind! -- But a man was debased and became a proletarian.

And that happened during the time when the Premier of the Ukraine was today's Prime Minister of the U.S.S.R., Nikita Krushev.

Thus, a new generation gradually grew up. It was a generation which did not know the life before World War I, and was completely ignorant about the free world. Stalin became God!

And now, ladies and gentlemen, I think it is necessary to say a few words about the religious concept of these two generations. The old one and the new one. It is inevitable to notice the difference because it shows clearly how a soul of a man could be distorted if it is permanently exposed to one-sided pressure. Many years later, the Western World called this permanent psychological exposure "brainwashing".

The whole educational system was changed entirely. The church schools disappeared and so did the Sunday schools and the state school is the only educational institution in Soviet Russia. Teachers and professors were people screened by the Communist Party, which of course insists on the teacher's knowledge of Marx-Leninist teaching and the dialectical materialism.

There exist the so-called numerous "classes" for pupils, that is, the Communist party again gives permission to study and eventually chooses even the subject matters in the classes.

Every school has a special task to fight against the Church and religion. Special classes are for atheists and special attention is given to the means and ways for reporting undesirable individuals. Thus, the result is that a pupil reports on a teacher or his parents if they would in any way try to correct the early brain-washing of a child in school.

It is common practice behind the Iron Curtain that the Secret Police watches the sermons in the Churches and especially the sermon from the pulpit. The secret agents listen to every word the minister utters.

I could give you some terrifying examples of children turned against their own parents. In Czechoslovakia some years ago, we had a case where the Communists purged their own ranks in strict accordance with the Communist law of permanent purges. The son of one of the high ranking Communist officials sent a letter to the State Prosecutor, in which he publicly accused his arrested father, called him "a repulsive monster" and asked for the death penalty! His name was Frejka. It is certainly shocking and because it happened in a country where there is still a strong memory of true democracy, student Frejka, after his father died on the gallows, committed suicide.

In Soviet Russia they erected a monument to a member of a "Komsomol" (the Communist Youth - similar to our Boy Scouts), a teenager, who denounced his whole family for anti-revolutionary activities and delivered his father into the hands of the bolshevik executioners.

As I have already mentioned before, in the Soviet Union there are two worlds. The world of older people and old people who still remember better days and the world of the youth. According to the bolshevik teachings, the old world is rotten and corrupted by the "bourgeois methods" as they call it - and written off! This world has to be liquidated, locked up, or closely watched in hope that it will die out.

I think that a personal experience is the best illustration of what I have in mind. In Stalinovo, stands a beautiful church from the days of the Russian Czar. Today it serves as a pantry for farm products. When I entered the church, it was quite natural for me to take off my military cap. In this old church, the janitor who still takes care of the building, noticed my behaviour and became

quite friendly. During our discussion, after I gave him my word of honour not to reveal anything I heard and saw, he showed me a hiding place in the cellar under the church packed with church banners, monstresses and gold cups.

"They would kill me if they knew that I did not turn all these things over to them" said the old, faithful guardian of the church. He added, "I have kept this here for the last 25 years and I still believe that the day will come when I shall take them up and use them again in praise of our Lord", and he wept. He is certainly dead now, the old man, but I convey and present this tear to a free and civilized world.

And here is a second picture of quite a different nature. It shows the attitude of a new, young generation.

Not far from Kiev, a friend of mine was killed in action. He was Roman Catholic. It was quite natural that he was buried in the usual way. The priest came and we all sang hymns and attended the service. We buried him in the old church cemetery. But it was not a cemetery any more, at least not in our sense. The place served as a pasture for cows and the young lads creeping behind the old toppled gravestones laughed when they watched the service and saw the priest and his helpers in their robes. They had never seen a ritual service before and they probably took the service for a big circus and us for clowns.

The church in Soviet Russia is in decadence. Decadent from the doorstep. I have at home a picture of the most beautiful cathedral in Russia "Laura Pecerska" in Kiev. Above the portal is a big fancy sign: "RELIGION IS AN OPIUM OF MANKIND - - LENIN". I could go on and on, telling you facts without the least bit of exaggeration.

Now, perhaps some of you would ask me how all of this is possible. There are people living in Russia who have a soul as we do, they feel as we do, so why don't they do something about it. Why don't they make a contra-revolution? There was a time, you might say, when they had the arms and there was also a time when they were in Europe and could refuse to return home.

The answer is not difficult. The regime which knows that it can remain in power only by force and deceit, must always handle the situation so that it would not get out of hand.



It tries therefore to subjugate every individual and make him "dependent on the state". This terrible sentence, this absolute depending on the state is sufficient ground to keep the Soviets in power at least until such time when the external pressure develops into a shock.

The second reason is fear. Fear from everything.

Is the liberation of nations behind the Iron Curtain possible? Personally, I am not convinced that it is, and I would say "NO". My reason? It has been proven that when you have 10 people together, one of them, according to the calculus of probabilities must be a spy. Besides this, in the U.S.S.R. there is no ownership. The state deprived the family of land and shops, etc. and can move men freely from one place to another. Because nobody has anything except his small personal belongings, the moving costs for the state are low. Periodically, almost at regular intervals, people are moved from one part of the country to another, to a new environment, without friends and with mutual mistrust. It takes years before one makes a handful of new friends. But then he goes away, anyway.

Another question could be raised, and this time a more serious one. Why did the people of the U.S.S.R. fight so bravely during World War II, if they did not like the regime? Really they would not have fought. In 1941 they welcomed the German army with open arms because they thought that liberation from Communism had come and in 4 months Hitler was near Moscow. However, the Germans were always good soldiers but poor politicians. From the beginning they tried very hard to subjugate Russia and introduced a colonial system. On top of that they committed atrocities and genocide. And so, only after a year, the Russian people, not the Communists, turned against the Nazis and fought bravely.

The Communist party recognized the mortal danger and changed the tactics 100% at home and on the international field. The Communists, led by Stalin, abolished the "International" and introduced a new national anthem. They revived the old Czarist military distinctions on uniforms, they reviewed also the church and paid tribute to the head of the Russian Orthodox Church, the Patriarch. They promised to restore to a great degree private ownership for soldiers and abolition of collective farms. They declared a Holy War in defence of the homeland. So, the Russian man fought a Holy War and won, and with the Russian man the free world won.

But it all lasted only a short time. The western powers in Teheran and Yalta lost and were deceived as the first - the European countries were the second - and the victorious Russian soldier was the third loser. After the war, a Russian soldier did not return home with his arms. At the border he was disarmed and in spite of all promises, he was sent to camps for re-education, for a period of from 6 to 12 months. Only then was the regime more or less secure and reverted to the old policy.

The international Communism did not give up its hope to capture the whole world. It was always ready to turn even against its former allies, but it needed time to take a new break. Shortly after the war, the U.S.S.R. was able to capture 600 million people and its expansion would not stop in the future, only because we in the West do not like the idea!

Kruschev told Harriman last year: "I will bury you" and during his trip to the U.S.A. said that the children of today's children will be devoted Communists. He was very serious! He was as serious as when he built up a wall in Berlin and nobody dared tear it down. He is more serious than we think!

Now, ladies and gentlemen - why did I select such a speech for such a happy and joyful occasion as the 25th anniversary of our honoured organist Alec Gordon? I hold Alec Gordon in high esteem and I certainly appreciate his magnificent work for our cause. I think that everybody should contribute in his own way to help celebrate this important anniversary. My modest contribution based on my own experience, for which I paid a high price, is presented in the form of tonight's speech. I have in mind here a witty and characteristic remark of my Russian non-communist commanding officer. He told me when I first stepped into Russia: "Paul, you are entering the U.S.S.R. It is a very peculiar country. Here in this country, live people equally divided into 3 groups. The first group represents people who were locked-up; the second are those who are locked-up; and the third group is an obvious one too, people who will be imprisoned!!"

I had no intention to wait for the opportunity to become a member of the third group and as a Christian, I chose liberty, and fervently want to celebrate among you, or in the choir, or at every opportunity as this one today. Also, I would like to be at every good occasion a messenger of the Jew Weiss,

the church custodian from the Ukraine, and last, but not least a messenger of my nation.

I would like to ask you, on this solemn occasion that you trust my words; and not only that, but also convey my message to all your friends.

May the Lord Almighty now, as before, be most helpful and gracious to all suffering nations!

To

Mayor A. McLean Haig,  
from Paul Planovsky,  
Vice-President of S. Hastings Lib. Party.