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Geneva Spirit And The Reds

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IT WOULD BE difficult to disagree with those observers who believe that the widely heralded "Geneva spirit" is dead or dying, and that the responsibility lies with the Kremlin.

The facade of smiling good will which Russians presented at the Big Four "summit" meeting in Geneva last Summer is being revealed for what it was—a false front.

It is only necessary to look closely at recent events in Indonesia, Morocco, Algeria, and Egypt for proof. Communist conduct in those areas belies the smiling countenances and outstretched hands of Russian diplomats at international conferences and at embassy social affairs throughout the world.

And if there be reluctance to believe the evidence we can see of Russian duplicity, we have only to listen to what Nikita Khrushchev, Soviet Communist Party boss, said recently at a meeting of East German Communists. He remarked that if anyone believes that Russian smiles involve abandonment of the teaching of Marx, Engels, Lenin and Stalin, "he deceives himself poorly." Those who wait for that, he said, must wait until a shrimp "learns to whistle."

COMMENTING on Khrushchev's words, Allen W. Dulles, director of the U. S. Central Intelligence Agency, had this to say: "There is no hard evidence as yet, which we as intelligence or law-enforcing officers can accept, that the dangers we face from the secret underground subversive activities of Communism have ceased. Let us hope it does. Let us hope that Khrushchev hears the shrill call of the shrimp."

We don't know anything about the vocal accomplishments of shrimp — whether they whistle or call or are incapable of doing either. And we don't intend to spend any time listening either. Khrushchev's words are sufficient proof that there has been no change of basic policy on the part of the Kremlin. It is still following the line laid down by Marx and Lenin that a clash between Communism and capitalism is inevitable, and that as far as the Communists are concerned it will be, and is, a no-holds-barred affair.

THE ELECTIONS in Indonesia are revealing the extent of Communist infiltration there. And they are stirring up trouble in Algeria and Morocco. It is rather obvious what they are trying to do. They are striking at what they believe, and probably correctly, to be the weakest link in the Western chain—France and her colonial problems. The Soviet bloc vote on Algeria in the United Nations was an abrupt slap at France's prestige.

Egypt's announcement of a deal to buy arms behind the Iron Curtain is further evidence of Communist trouble-making which weakens the West's efforts to resolve the Arab-Jewish dispute. The quarrel between Egypt and Israel has appeared irreconcilable, and the arms purchase will throw more fuel on the fire. Israel must perforce turn to the West in an attempt to balance Egypt's armed strength. That will touch off an armament race, and more bloodshed between the two nations—a situation which the Communists will be ready to exploit to their own ends.

All in all there appears to be little reason to believe that the "Geneva spirit" exists, or ever did exist, in the minds of Russia's leaders.

And anyone who persists in thinking that it does, in the words of Khrushchev, "deceives himself poorly."