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engaging Madame Labin laid her thesis squarely on the line: the propaganda front is vastly more important than the military. Roosevelt's conviction that the Communists were men susceptible to Western values amply repaid the Soviets the billions spent on propaganda. Enough of talk; enough of counter-ideology; enough of economic aid; enough of threats of nuclear reprisals: only propaganda, by a West truly united, can save the day.

The first session's third major speaker, Connecticut white-haired Senator Dodd, had no intention of being left behind in the matter of spade-calling. Fifteen more years like the last fifteen, he warned, and there might be no more free world to defend. In America, as in France and Italy, major unions are today under Communist control: Bridges' ILWU and the American Communications Association, to name two. American policy in the 1940s had unquestionably been perverted by Soviet agents: Hiss, White, Coe. And while much of the damage, now as then, is done by "innocents," the conscious infiltrators are not all gone by a long shot. He hoped the Conference would express its approval of the creation of Freedom Academies in the nations of the West, to make them the technical equals of the Soviets in the struggle for the world.

In the ensuing sessions, held in a permanent blue haze of cigarette smoke at the Cercle Republicain on the Avenue de l'Opéra, these themes were stressed and reiterated many times. Again and again this sophisticated body of veteran anti-Communists was exhorted—rather unnecessarily, one felt—to understand the Communist menace and to resist it. But every now and then some speaker would brush aside the heavy velvet ceremonies of obligatory rhetoric and put his finger squarely on a point that needed emphasis: as when Salvador de Madariaga, on the final day, advised the West not to waste time and money on disarmament conferences. Let us regain the inner faith the West has lost, he urged, and the growing force of world opinion will work for us in a way hitherto unknown to history.

All well-run conferences end in a burst of resolutions, and this one was no exception. The main manifesto echoed Senator Dodd's call for schools to train freedom's commandos, and urged a Western propaganda offensive "demanding relentlessly the self-determination of [Soviet] subjects and colonized populations." A separate resolution declared explicitly that "Every government that favors the admission of Communist China to the UN thereby participates in the Communist offensive against Liberty."

Perhaps most important, however, was the resolution which directed the organizers of the Conference to create a working committee to further its objectives, especially among the governments and international agencies of the free world. For the problem today is not merely to understand Communism; the West contains many men who understand it very well indeed, as this very Conference showed once again. But their understanding must be translated, before it is too late, into action: action by the governments of the free world.

Anti-Communists Meet in Paris

A pale sun peered fitfully between the clouds of Paris on the first three days of December, as the International Conference on the Political Warfare of the Soviets met to do its business. To the surprise of the Atlantic Congress held in London last June, its Subcommittee B-3 (on "Soviet and Western Propaganda Techniques") not persistently demanded that NATO create a new Division to counter the ideological warfare of the Soviet Union, and had further urged that "an international inter-Allied organization be set up" to diffuse "basic information which will help people to assess and understand more clearly the ideological aggression of totalitarian Communism."

The author of that resolution is a pert and fiery Frenchwoman, Madame Suzanne Labin. She had not been content with the passage of her motion: she proceeded to summon a conference to implement it. Out of 885 people invited, 482 accepted and made their way to Paris at their own expense (sufficiently establishing, one observer noted sadly, that this was no mere CIA ballet). From France alone came 38 delegates, representing the entire non-Communist spectrum of French politics. And there was equally impressive representation from almost every other European nation, including the inevitable exiles, as ever passionate and pathetic from the enslaved lands behind the Iron Curtain: From Léopoldville and secessionist Katanga came black men with strange names; from far Vietnam, an able Oriental delegation. America was represented by some of its sturdiest hard anti-Communists: Senator Thomas Dodd, Eugene Lyons, Ben Mandel of the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee, Christopher Emmet, constant friend of the Captive Peoples, and the lordly Forrest Davis, looking (as one Frenchwoman remarked) uncannily like Richelieu.

So it was a knowing group that gathered in the auditorium of NATO's glossy new "Palace" at the Porte Dauphine to hear an informal but cordial address of welcome from NATO's Secretary-General, Belgium's plump and adroit Paul-Henri Spaak. M. Spaak referred to "peaceful coexistence" as "a diabolical, satanical expression," and pledged that NATO's struggle against Communism would go on—not only militarily but economically, and increasingly in the area of propaganda (though he feared progress in these latter fields would