

The Problem of Peace

General Eisenhower's Monday night speech at Denver is perhaps his most inspired and forceful utterance thus far in the campaign for the presidency. He has told the American people in simple but effective language that they can not hope to live secluded in peace and freedom while a great portion of the world generates hostility and terror directed ultimately at us—that there is no alternative to the forging of unity and purpose and strength and moral courage, and the positive policies in the broad field of foreign relations which will in time dispel the uncertainties and dangers surrounding us.

General Eisenhower has not said new things. He has said nothing which every American in his heart does not know, but he has reduced a welter of confused thinking to a crystalline clarity and simplicity of statement and imbued the whole with his own dynamic and dedicated personality. Indeed, what General Eisenhower has encompassed in a relatively brief address is not greatly different than the aims and purposes which have been evolving in American thought all through the critical postwar years, but he has given them vitality and substance and reason, and he has extended them into realms of positiveness which eventually must supersede the obvious limitations of reluctance, half willingness and cross-purpose.

He has spoken, not in rounded political phrases, but to the hearts and minds of American families—to the parents of sons in military service, or destined to enter it, and to the sons themselves. In a call for a unity of the American spirit in the face of an enormity of dangers he has transcended narrow and selfish partisanism and has held forth the hope of restoring peace, decency, and human dignity in a disordered world.

The perils of isolationism from the struggle are certain and plain. If the great sources of the earth's raw materials are gulped into the Communist maw, we stand—in the general's dramatic description—a gaunt and naked America encircled by a savage wolf pack. The prevention of that dire circumstance, which would bring an end to all that America is and toils to become, is the center and soul of Eisenhower policy. It is neither abstruse nor veiled, but simplicity itself. It is a pattern for survival, stark and demanding, but the evasion of which in partisan bickering and selfish divisions is national disaster.

In this address, as in no other to such a degree, the breadth, the experience, the vision, and the deep patriotism of the speaker are revealed. It illustrates why, were it possible for the American people to express themselves tomorrow, they would choose without hesitation and in complete trust this calm and confident man to lead the nation through the darkness and the dangers about us.