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RUSSIAN EDITORS IN THE U.S.

(continued from previous page)

come to your country, as it did to mine, but I would like you to remember what Russia went through in 1942 and 1943. I would like you to remember Stalin-grad. We fought for our own soil; we fought for our own country and for our fatherland, but we also fought for all of culture. If we had not stood in 1942, there might well have been no culture in Western Europe or any other area of the world. It was that in 1941 and 1942 which moved the Russian people.

"Our army with your army, and with the armies of the English and the French and the Yugoslavs and other allies, have beaten Fascism and the Fascists on the field of battle, but Fascism is not beaten for good. There are no frontiers, and there are no customs guards on frontiers which can stop Fascism so long as it still remains. Fascism changes its clothes; it changes its lipstick. I have been in different cities of Europe, and I have seen it in new disguises. It still exists, and we must defeat it.

"Our weapon is the pen. In 1942 Red Army soldiers came to me and told me that the fountain pen was my rocket gun. They told me that writers must destroy Fascism morally. The soldiers had done their share, their job on the field of battle in defeating Fascism, and they challenged me and other writers to do ours in conquering the microbes which might still spread or maintain Fascism.

"Fascists are of different varieties, and it is difficult sometimes to tell them apart. Some like beer; others like wine. Some people like Franco; other people like the King of Greece. But I recommend that there is one test by which you can tell Fascists. They are people who with special bitterness hate the Soviet Union.

"I think that exchange of information is good. What does it mean? Don't we print in Russia a great deal of what goes on here in the United States? It may be that some sensational news does not get published in Russia, which might not interest every Soviet reader, but the political, social, and economic life of the United States is described in the Soviet press.

"I would like to make one very personal and individual statement. I am not an editor, but a writer. My paper wanted to underline its sense of the importance of this conference by sending me here, and therefore I should speak my mind. I believe that the exchange of handshakes is important, but the exchange of points of view is even more important if we are going to protect ourselves from the enemies who almost got us once.

"I think it is possible that at times our papers have criticised the United States unfairly, maybe unfairly from our own point of view. Newspaper writing is not scriptural writing. Editing is a hard job in every country, and mistakes can be made. I want in all true friendship to say to you from my heart that there is no malice against America to be found in Russian papers. Maybe there are mistakes, just as there may be and are typographical mistakes, but there is no malice and there is no slander. I wish that you could say the same of your press in regard to my country, but if any one of you should say it to me, I would look at him carefully."

Konstantin Simonov, editorial staff of Red Star:

"My dear friends — I want to say 'friends' because if I said 'colleagues' I could say that still in Moscow. I am deeply moved because I am to-day for the first time in my life in America, and America is a country that I have dreamed about since childhood.

"I see that the majority of those of you who are here are older than I am. I am 30 years old, but I still have a right to speak here because certainly the majority of the blood that was shed for victory in this war came from men of my generation. I think that applies equally to the Soviet Union and to America.

"I want now to talk about myself. My own basic personal desire is that my son, who is now seven years old, should not have to live through what I have had to live through in this life. It is very bad when fathers think a great deal about themselves and little about their children. I don't belong among fathers like that and I don't believe that those who are in this room with me do either. There are many differences between us in our points of view, but I think in respect to this it is clear that we are agreed. None of us wants our children to live through what we have had to live through.

"This war did not begin either in 1939 or 1941. Nor did it finish on the 9th of May or on the 15th of August of last year when first the capitulation of Germany and then capitulation of Japan were signed. It began a good deal earlier, and it hasn't finished yet, and those who think it has finished are bad fathers and bad mothers.

"I know that here in this room there are all kinds of people. I know that many are not agreed with me on very many different questions. But I don't think there is a man in this room who could look at me and say, 'No, Mr. Simonov, you are wrong. In 15 or 20 years I want to leave my home and leave my family and children and go off to war.' I don't count myself a coward, but I have had my fill of war. I don't want war, and I believe that the people in this room this afternoon agree with me.

"I believe that among journalists and writers there are all kinds of people, some good and some bad, but I believe that all of them, without exception, can exert an enormous influence on the people. Every man has his own weaknesses and his own mistakes. I think that the war with Fascism has not ended and, therefore, I think that for us writers everywhere it is too early to demobilise our spirits. Let us stand for a while still on the alert. Let our people go back to peace, but we writers should remain mobilised, on the alert against Fascism.

"Let us together, writers and newspaper men in Russia and in America, think about our children. Let us think about those who are growing up in this country and those who are growing up in Russia. If we think about them and think about them honestly, we will find an answer to our problems. I love very much my children and the future. I think you do, too. That is all honest men can say."

Carol Binder, Minneapolis Tribune:

"I was much interested to hear Mr. Ehrenburg say that in his judgment the