



MARGOT ROSS

the Labour Party was in power, the United States was deeply suspicious of what it regarded as Britain's dangerous leaning to the Left. But Churchill and

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Eden are Conservatives. British patriots and statesmen of long and wide experience in international affairs. Their ideas on the best way to solve the problems of South-East Asia and to secure peace and freedom for the world are surely worth New Zealand support, even in the face of American insistence to the contrary. I know that the argument is that in the event of another world war Britain could not help us out here in the Pacific, while America could. But how much better to have no third world war than to have American assistance in the general cataclysm which would be the next world war.

John Foster Dulles long ago reached the conclusion that Communism cannot be destroyed by force alone. It may possibly prove a world tragedy that he now appears to have forgotten his own line of argument. But in 1946 he wrote: "The most urgent task of American statesmanship is to find the policies which will avert a serious clash with the Soviet Union. The Soviet programme threatens our way of life and we may react violently and foolishly. Some will want us to place our reliance wholly on our military and economic power and to use it to coerce Soviet leaders." The first step towards a solution, declared Mr. Dulles, was to demonstrate "that we genuinely cherish for ourselves and others the spiritual and intellectual freedoms which the Soviet system would take away." . . . The Communist advance in Indo-China has roused in the United States the feeling that something must be done to check it—and done quickly. Therefore she is suggesting the use of what Mr. Dulles himself described in 1946 as "methods which seem to us defensive, but which may seem to Soviet leaders to be offensive." Unfortunately, both Australia and New Zealand seem to have become converts to the American policy of hustle. . . . Surely the wisest course for us in New Zealand now would be to restrain our impatience for absolute security just a little—at least until the Geneva Conference has had a fair chance to find a solution by negotiations. The stakes are very high. It would be tragic if in our rush to complete our military preparations we precipitated the conflict we have been seeking to avoid and missed even the smallest chance of advancing towards a lasting peace.

—MARGOT ROSS,
May 22, 1954.

N.Z. LISTENER, JUNE 11, 1954.

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