

SWORDS INTO PLOWSHARES

A Thesis

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SUMMARY

"Swords into Plowshares" is a brief tabulation of some of the problems which this country must face after the war is over. It tells what the nations of the world will expect of us, and of some of the pitfalls which we must avoid in order that we shall prolong the peace.

SWORDS INTO PLOWSHARES

The peace with its problems is nearing at a quickening rate; already wiser men of the United Nations camp are beginning to turn their attentions to these problems, for they realize that should they not be solved, the peace will be a short-lived one.

The difficulties are legion; some seem almost insurmountable, making the problems of fighting a global war seem like child's play in comparison.

After the din of conflict has died away, the immediate attention should lie in the relief of war-afflicted areas, enemy as well as friendly. For the first step toward re-establishing friendship with those with whom we have been on shooting terms is an important step; if it is taken in the proper direction, the following tasks will be lightened immeasurably. Of course, armies of occupation must be maintained in enemy territory for a period of time, perhaps of years. This is in order to prevent revolutions which are always prone to strike while a defeated power is yet struggling to regain its feet. But how these occupation troops are used will be a vital factor in the succeeding relationships between victors and vanquished.

After the problem of succoring the beaten and enslaved peoples is on the way to solution, it is necessary to re-establish means for these populations to assume their normal

way of life, and in fact to give them opportunities to improve their pre-war lot. This is indeed a touchy and a critical problem, and unless it is in the hands of someone who knows and understands the cowed millions of Europe and Asia, the whole scheme of reconstruction may easily go awry. For although these people will want and welcome our help, they may very conceivably resent our forward interference in their home affairs, especially if it is done in a way which smacks of our supposed importance and superiority.

In the above connection, we will want to ship them goods for re-construction and for building factories and for planting food. We will want to lend them monies, probably vast sums which we almost certainly will never see again, with which to stabilize their sagging monetary systems. We will want to amend our own laws so as to give them ready access to our home markets and to provide a market here for them to export to when they are ready to do so.

These two are but the most pressing problems of the peace to come; others, of course, include the establishment of a world tribunal and an international law enforcement agency; and may I here say that by all means the defeated nations should be allowed to sit and vote at the table of the world court. Another terrific problem will be the re-education of the axis peoples, for the minds of the Hitler young and their counter-parts in the satellite countries are deeply poisoned against us. We will probably have to use

our own educators at first, although this must be but a temporary expediency.

When the swords are beaten into plowshares, the responsibility of the peace will be on our heads, and posterity will hold us strictly accountable if we fail in our golden opportunity to make the world amicable to the highest degree.

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