



PEOPLE TO PEOPLE

BY DAVID LAWRENCE



THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES began last week an epochal conversation at the "summit." He spoke on behalf of the people of America and addressed directly the people of the Soviet Union. This is the start of a process of communication that can build the foundation of world peace. Mr. Eisenhower said:

"My call for action is not primarily addressed to the Congress and people of the United States. Rather, it is a message from the people of the United States to all other peoples, especially those of the Soviet Union. This is the spirit of what we Americans would like to say:

"In the last analysis, there is only one solution to the grim problems that lie ahead. The world must stop the present plunge toward more and more destructive weapons of war, and turn the corner that will start our steps firmly on the path toward lasting peace.

"Our greatest hope for success lies in a universal fact: The people of the world, as people, have always wanted peace and want peace now.

"The problem, then, is to find a way of translating this universal desire into action. This will require more than words of peace. It requires works of peace."

Here is an appeal above the heads of government to the people of the Soviet Union, voiced by a Chief Executive elected by the votes of a free people in America.

Here is the expression of an idealism that in our Republic has given liberty to all men and slave-labor camps to none.

Here is an open bid to the people of the Soviet Union to consider the American example and to participate in the greatest enterprise of our times—the making of a lasting peace.

It was President Woodrow Wilson who in 1917 told the Congress that the United States had "no quarrel with the German people" but only with the Imperial German Government. Eventually the people deposed their Emperor and made peace, only to be robbed of it later by another autocratic ruler and dictatorship. We are today friends again with the people of a new German Republic which stands as a beacon of hope for all enslaved peoples.

President Eisenhower last week emphasized before the world the threat that has come from the Soviet dictatorship. He said:

"The threat to our safety, and to the hope of a peaceful world, is simply stated. It is Communist imperialism."

There is no quarrel with the people of the Soviet

Union. Mr. Eisenhower went on to say:

"This threat is not something imagined by critics of the Soviets. Soviet spokesmen, from the beginning, have publicly and frequently declared their aim to expand their power, one way or another, throughout the world.

"The threat has become increasingly serious as this expansionist aim has been reinforced by an advancing industrial, military and scientific establishment.

"But what makes the Soviet threat unique in history is its all-inclusiveness. Every human activity is pressed into service as a weapon of expansion. Trade, economic development, military power, arts, science, education, the whole world of ideas—all are harnessed to this same chariot of expansion.

"The Soviets are, in short, waging total 'cold war.'

"The only answer to a regime that wages total cold war is to wage total peace.

"This means bringing to bear every asset of our personal and national lives upon the task of building the conditions in which security and peace can grow."

Opportunities to apply this approach in specific ways will develop as we encourage the Soviet people to join us in "building the conditions in which security and peace can grow."

For peace can come only when the regime in Moscow is driven from power by the concerted will of a people determined to choose their own rulers and to win for themselves the liberties free nations enjoy.

Disarmament conferences will no doubt someday be resumed, as a formality, with representatives of the Communist Government if only to offset the propaganda that America does not want disarmament. But such conferences will prove of little avail until the people of the Soviet Union are free. As the President pointed out, any agreement must provide "reliable means to ensure compliance by all."

There can be no reliance, however, on dictatorships.

There can be reliance only on governments chosen by free peoples.

President Eisenhower's appeal is one of the most constructive peace efforts of current history. His address was perhaps the greatest state paper of our times. It was a message of resoluteness, of confidence, of determination. It was a message that can help to bring mankind out of the "age of terror" and into an age of mutual respect and enduring friendship.

The key to it all is the direct appeal from people to people. For theirs alone is the sovereign power—the true power to be invoked at a "summit conference."