

IDEOLOGICAL WORLD WAR

Address to Rotarians by Emissary for Moral Re-armament

IN its transition from the 150-year-old industrial age into the ideological age, the world found itself involved in ideological war—a cold war—but nevertheless war, said Mr. W. Andrew Strang, an emissary to South Africa for Moral Re-armament, when he addressed Rotarians at their weekly luncheon yesterday.

The world was supposed to be at peace, and yet it was at war. Great ideas, to which the world had become so accustomed that they were taken for granted, seemed to have become the opposite of what they were believed to be. "Democracy is shouted about the loudest in the most totalitarian countries; bondage seems to mean freedom, and freedom, bondage. Truth has come to mean any means that justify the ends. Justice is anything that furthers the interest of one's

country. No wonder we read our papers and get confused with what is going on," he said.

There was a deliberate pattern in all that, a pattern which was only seen when two things were grasped: the world was moving out of the industrial age which had existed for 150 years and in which economics was the important factor, into the ideological age where ideas came first. Secondly the world was engaged in a cold war — a war of ideas.

BEHIND IRON CURTAIN

He gave two examples of that war. One was China. When Mr. Roosevelt went to Yalta he took as his adviser on Far Eastern affairs a young man called Alger Hiss. Hiss advised Roosevelt to let Russia enter the war against Japan and to let Russia control Manchuria. Roosevelt accepted that policy and it was carried out. To-day china was behind the Iron Curtain and Hiss was serving 14 years as a traitor to his country. Hiss had put his ideology before loyalty to his country, and sold China. Hiss was not a member of the Communist Party. Like many men in key positions who served the Communist Party, by arrangement with the Party, he did so outside its membership.

In military warfare, a country was blockaded by a navy which sank ships taking supplies. In ideological warfare that was unnecessary. An example was France. Directives were sent to the dockers in America and they called a strike, resulting in ships taking supplies to France being held up, or unofficial strikers in the country were organised. In 1947 France's unofficial strikers cost the country exactly the same amount as was given in Marshall Aid.

COMINFORM STRATEGY

When he was in Switzerland last September he heard through underground sources that the Cominform had met and decided a three-fold strategy: outward truce in Europe, war in the East and preparation in Africa. He had seen the third point very much in evidence in Africa south of the Sahara during his travels over the past few months.

Democracy's answering strategy was the Marshall Plan in the economic field and the Atlantic Pact and its Near Eastern counterpart in the military field.

In the field of ideological strategy, statesmen had, unfortunately, only got to the stage where they saw the need of it. One of the world's greatest statesmen, M. Robert Schuman, Foreign Minister of France, had said: "In the economic field we have the Marshall Plan, in the field of security we have the Atlantic Pact. Now we need to give ideological content to the lives of millions in Europe." The Schuman Plan for steel and coal in Europe was an ideological step, economics taking second place.