

met, and the United Nations was organized, but it at once became an arena for cold-war fighting, with the Soviets nearly always outvoted overwhelmingly, until the exploding new nations flooded into the United Nations and transformed it into a body which neither cold-war antagonist could control.

Now, after another twenty years, the Cold War with the Soviet Union has become a giant anachronism which had nearly burned itself out, after the squandering of immense resources, after entrenching militarism and rightist extremism at home, leaving a deadly stalemate that neither side dares upset.¹⁷

Under the cover of this fearsome truce the little peoples assert themselves, the world over. Little Cuba and Panama defy the United States, while Albania kicks the shins of the Soviet Union and Rumania presumes to mediate between her and China. The giant powers are so strong that they are nearly powerless. It appears that people count more than power after all.

As the population explosion gathers force and scarce natural resources rapidly diminish, as automation eats away at man's reason for being and science races to make his doom on earth swift and certain, have we any recourse but to push the growth of the world community with all our strength? Does anyone know of a safer retreat than the United Nations, or a better agency for controlling the multiplying nuclear titans and knitting the world together?

TOWARD THE FUTURE

Fortunately, we had in President Kennedy at a new turning point in history a leader with both vision and courage. He had made certain that

there were no missile gaps against us. He had won the acclaim of the West by the way he successfully played show-down nuclear politics in the 1962 Cuban missile crisis. He had faced the last of man's ultimate decisions on earth.

Then, in the summer of 1963, Kennedy turned his face resolutely toward life and unmistakably signaled the end of the Cold War. Behind the patriotic façades of nuclear militarism he saw the death of his own children and of all children. In a series of magnificent addresses, he urged us to reconsider our attitudes toward peace, the Soviet Union, and the Cold War. He won a treaty ending atomic testing above ground and then paused to wait a little for the more embattled of his cold-war compatriots to catch up with the times.

At that moment he was struck down, to join Woodrow Wilson and Franklin D. Roosevelt in a new trinity of American statesmen who, in a world headed toward its own extinction, had done what they could to save it. Each had carried the flame of human sanity as far as he could. The earlier two had suffered swift and tragic reversal of their healing, unifying policies, but that was not their fault.

Is this to happen again, for the third and last time? Are we really about to plunge into another twenty years of escalating peril of the final world war in a self-defeating effort to control the fringes of China militarily? Should we not rather join in welcoming the great Chinese people belatedly into the twentieth century? And, above all, can we move fast enough really to organize the unity of mankind while there is still time?

In his immortal encyclical *Pacem in Terris*, Pope John XXIII reminded us that "the unity of the human family has always existed, because its members

¹⁷ See the eighteen articles in *THE ANNALS* (January 1964) on "The Changing Cold War."