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Selected Quotes

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Selected Quotes

16 *From a 1951 Baccalaureate address at Howard University, "A Pathway to World Peace."*

There are some forces in the world which cannot be stopped by military means. Communism is one of them.

Communism is a powerful revolutionary movement in the realm of ideas and human organization. If peace is to be achieved with Russia and with the Communists, it must be achieved in the field of ideas and in the field of human organization.

If we persist in believing that there is no good in Russia and in communism, then by our very thought we have closed all pathways of peace except by the defeat of our enemy in war, and we are moving toward that war with relentless force which cannot be avoided.

If, however, there is some great good in Russia and in communism, even though it is mixed with a great and fearful amount of evil, then there is still an open pathway of peace.

From a 1952 address, "The Heart of the Matter:"

We think in America that what men hunger for most of all is to achieve economic success so that they may own cars and houses and travel and dress beautifully. We are mistaken, because down at the bottom of the human heart there is a hunger that goes deeper than that. That hunger is expressed in the Lord's Prayer in the New Testament, when this Jewish young man who saw into the depths of human nature prayed, "Give us this day our daily bread."

What "us" did he mean?

He meant every human child in all of the periphery of this earth.

What he was praying for was this, that the struggle for existence which makes animals roam the wilderness and tear one another to pieces, and which up to this time has also characterized the human race

— that this thing shall be done away with and that the

time may come when we can all sit down to the table, however meager, knowing that the bread we eat is also shared by every other living human being, and that we have not robbed any single human soul in order to eat our daily bread.

From "The Need for a Program of International Economic Aid" address at a 1959 conference of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization in London:

... we are divided in our minds today by moral habits which have descended from the colonial system which we have not yet been able to overcome. We present an equivocal picture in what we are doing now. The under-developed peoples of the world have only to look at Africa to see how divided our minds are. On the one hand we see the noble British one by one freeing their peoples from the colonial yoke, freeing them deliberately, supporting them in their freedom, and inviting them in their freedom to come back to your mother country which is now for you no longer an empire but a commonwealth. Every now and then we see the noble French rise with a passionate gesture and say to their peoples, "Are we holding you? Then be free," and then under their breath they say in prayer, "But do come back. We want you to be with us." The other day we saw a declaration from the Belgians saying, "This pathway of freedom is what we intend to pursue. Our plans are in the making and will be ready." But you look at Africa, it is magnificent to see that some 70 million of the peoples have been freed under these circumstances by members of this organization. But there are 110 millions of Africans who are neither free nor under mandate, still dominated politically, still having their natural resources exploited, not for their good but for the good of those who exploit.

We see on the shores of Africa instances of the most deliberate and cruel segregation and discrimination of the inhabitants of the country on the land of their fathers and in the presence of the graves of their



mothers. Nobody can look at Africa without knowing that we are divided in our minds and that we have not yet been able to summon either the political power or the moral power to overcome that division. Though the God of our fathers has vetoed the colonial system and closed the open gates of the world against it, we are still reluctant to turn it loose, and we may yet shame ourselves by admitting one more venture to reopen those gates.

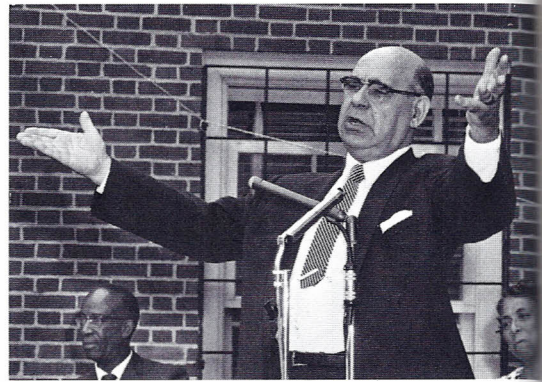
May I say to you again, we have as yet been able to put no great world-encircling concept in the place of the colonial system to which we have been devoted for some 500 years and which is now fallen. What greater idea do we have now of a world encircling nature that we can offer these underdeveloped peoples of Asia and Africa, of which they can be members just as we, in which they can be respected just as we, they can move freely out of their own spontaneous enthusiasm just as we? I suggest to you that we do not yet have one. There are no great words coming from us today regarding that city that hath foundations that was made for the whole human race of one blood; and because we do not have it we are in some difficulty in approaching these Asiatics and Africans.

... We are not morally prepared. We are not purely prepared in our hearts in their orientation towards the thing that we want to do for these people. We are not committing ourselves to any long-range purpose when we know that it may take years and years to develop the economies of these people. We have no great central organization for talking with them, for listening to their ideas or exchanging ideas with them, for approach in cooperation with them, for applying a fit measure to them.

... The British know what I mean; you great Frenchmen, who pioneered the Illumination, know what I mean; you great Germans, who have meditated upon Socialism long before the idea was born among the Russians, you know what I mean. I mean the thing that Abraham Lincoln meant when he said, "Government of the people, for the people and by the people, dedicated to the proposition that all



men are created equal, all men." And he said, "I have never had a political idea in my life that was not based upon this great proposition, and when I read that proposition I not only see the slaves set free but I see the last tyranny lifted from the back of the last man." □



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