

2. Measures to be taken against Propaganda and the Inciters of a New War

In a speech before the Assembly on 18 September Mr Vyshinsky (*Soviet Union*) raised the question of what he called the “steadily increasing propaganda of a new war.” The arguments, as well as the tone, of this speech will best be rendered by extracts from it:—

“A furious campaign in the press mainly in the United States press and in the press of the countries obediently following the example of the United States, like Turkey, has been spread for a considerable period of time for the purpose of coaxing public opinion in favour of a new war. All means of psychological influence have been used—newspapers, magazines, radio and films. This propaganda of a new war is being carried on under various flags and pretexts. But no matter how much the flags and pretexts differ, the essence of the whole propaganda remains the same; to justify the furious armament race which is being carried on by the United States, including atomic weapons; to justify the limitless desires of the influential circles in the United States to fulfil the expansionist plans, the keystone of which is a senseless idea of world-domination.

“The war-mongering propagandists try by hook and crook to frighten people poorly versed in politics by the fables and vicious fabrications and slanders about alleged preparations on the part of the Soviet Union to attack the United States. They certainly know only too well that they are telling lies and slanders, that the Soviet Union is not threatening in any way with an attack on any country.

“... military blocs, military agreements on the so-called mutual defence are being formed and concluded, measures for the unification of armaments are being elaborated, and the general headquarters plans for a new war are being worked out. The well-known American radio commentator, Leon Pearson, in his recent statement, had reason to admit that ‘American officers slowly and meticulously prepare themselves for the next world war, in which the adversary will be the Soviet Union.’ This is the way in which the war-mongering propagandists of a new war are acting. Being afraid of a new crisis, they are instigating a new war expecting to remove by such means the approaching menace of collapse and loss of their profits.

“The most active role in the promotion of this propaganda is played by the representatives of American capitalist monopolies, by representatives of the largest enterprises and the leading branches of American industrial, banking and financial groups. These are the groups that have received from the second world war great profits and accumulated vast capital, as was the case in the first world war.”

Among the capitalist monopolies which were the chief target of Mr Vyshinsky’s attack were those connected with research in the use of atomic energy, “like Dupont Chemical Trust, Monsanto Chemical Company, Westinghouse Company, General Electric, Standard Oil”; “organs of the American reactionary press, which are in the hands of such newspaper magnates as Morgan, Rockefeller, Ford, Hearst, MacCormack, and others”; and various scientific institutions and universities in the United States. Mr Vyshinsky