

U. S. IN DANGER OF BEING 'MOST HATED' POWER



FOREIGN AFFAIRS
by Erwin D. Canham

THERE IS NO mistaking the evidence from everywhere throughout the free world: Confidence in the United States has been badly shaken. Americans should recognize the dangers of the situation and set about rectifying it.

Misunderstanding of our anti-Communist drives has been the chief surface cause of this crisis of confidence. But, more fundamentally, we face the penalty of being a big power. We cannot please everybody, and in trying there is danger of displeasing everybody. It is difficult to stay on good terms with the old colonial powers and the new nations at the same time.

Most deeply dangerous of all is that the United States might become the symbol of would-be white supremacy in the world. A long generation ago, Lothrop Stoddard wrote of "The Rising Tide of Color." The tide still rises. Make no mistake: the tinted peoples of the world are on the march as never before. We must not be the symbol of their repression, but of their hope.

All these and other elements blend together to make the position of the United States very difficult. They mean much to every American, for we could become the most hated nation in the world. We must be aware of this possibility, and quick and decisive in taking steps to prevent it.

First of all, we should see the urgent need to make our own internal politics more steady and rational. Europeans,

in particular, had a very high opinion of General Eisenhower. They would welcome an affirmation of his qualities of leadership in the control of his Administration and of Congress. To see the President firmly guiding national policies would restore American prestige to a remarkable degree.

If the Administration could take charge of the anti-Communist drive, reduce it to its proper proportions in the general scheme of things, and get on with more important tasks, it would really clear the air.

If the American Government would choose which side it will support, the old colonial powers or the new nations, and then stick to it, the air would clear. It would be clearer even if we indicated we still had to support the British and French. People would know where we stood.

But if we should re-affirm our own ancient revolutionary principles, and say that colonial peoples are bound to be free and we might as well make up our minds to the fact, this would be better. The birth pangs of the new nations are not going to be gentle in any case. Early and decisive action on our part might have made them somewhat easier. We had better recognize that man's deep drive for freedom and self-determination is irresistible. It is just too late for colonialism.

We can regain world leadership if we apply in practical daily action our basic commitment to the rights of man. This means no compromise at home or abroad with any force that would deny or blur the ancient freedoms of speech and religion and justice. **THE END**

Mr. Canham, editor of The Christian Science Monitor, has long interpreted foreign affairs.