appear a flop. On the contrary, we confess to being deeply disturbed by the type of recently recruited partisans exhibited at the "shooting peace" affair in Vienna.

That this World Peace Congress was supported by numerous clergymen no less anemic theologically than intellectually, was no surprise—though it is our distressing duty to take notice that their number is greater than even we had thought. Nor are we unduly alarmed by the appearance of Jean-Paul Sartre, the Beau Brummel of intellectual France, as headliner in Vienna: Monsieur Sartre, the idol of many a highbrow professor on American college campuses, has of course always been a fraud. But we have found among the sponsors of the Vienna Congress, for the first time, names of men whose quality commands far more serious attention. Henri Matisse, for example.

Matisse, who, unlike Pablo Picasso, has always refused to invest his immense artistic reputation in political causes, is dignity and valor personified. There was never in him or his work one ounce of that Bohemian phoniness that has turned so many contemporary artists into deserters from civilization. Calmly maturing into singular mastery, Matisse has lately been crowning a life of magnificent achievement with luminous art in the service of a God to whom the old painter returned with serene honesty. But at the end of a glorious life—surely one of the most inspiring life stories in contemporary memory—Henri Matisse endorses a murderous fraud.

Some may want to explain this shocking misadventure of a truly great man by the cleverness the Kremlin's con-men customarily apply to the adolescent and the senile. But we would reject such a soothing explanation. Nor can we console ourselves with a reference to the notorious naiveté of artists; we have too much respect for such rare and proven greatness as that of Henri Matisse. And rather than be satisfied with reflections on the foe's devilish acumen, we prefer to look at the frightening deficiencies on our own side. For only they can really account for the alarming progress of the dissolution of the West.

A major deficiency, it seems to us, is what amounts to a strange and complete breakdown of communication on our side. No matter how much money is spent on our governmental and semi-governmental propaganda ventures, we blatantly fail to bring, not merely our side of the story, but the elementary facts to the attention of people who, like Matisse, are indisputably men of good will with a desire for truth.

Let us offer here an authoritative Bolshevik statement on the nature of the Communist "peace" strategy:

> Examples of the concealment of predatory aims behind noble principles are offered by the idea of disarmament and pacifist propaganda in the broad sense of the word for one's own purpose. From time immemorial the idea of disarmament has been one of the most favored forms of dissimulation of the true motives and plans of those governments which have been seized by a sudden "love of peace."

This is taken from "History of Diplomacy," by Dr. E. V. Tarle, member of the Soviet Academy of Sciences, bearer of the Order of Lenin, winner of the Stalin Prize in 1943. And no more factual or more illuminating information on the fraudulent Communist "shooting peace" offensive could be found.

Imagine what the Soviet propaganda would have accomplished, had such a gem of self-identification been displayed on our side! There would be no shepherd on the steppes of Asia unaware of this devastating self-relevation of Western imperialism. Yet it is a safe bet that Comrade Tarle's irrefutable exposure of the Soviets' "shooting peace" was never brought before Henri Matisse's lucid eyes. And so, because the great old man is as desirous of peace as is the Lord whom he now celebrates, he put his immortal name on a larcenous document.

We do not pretend that all the world's woes could be cured if only our paid propagandists recovered the power of speech. But there can be no doubt, it seems to us, that some of the most distressing Communist victories of this "shooting peace" must be charged to an altogether incredible paralysis of Western communications systems. And the Eisenhower Administration has hardly a graver responsibility than that of finding for the "Voice of America" men of enough quality to make themselves heard by a Henri Matisse.

More Light

The indictment of Owen Lattimore by a Federal Grand Jury in Washington, D. C., for perjury seems to us (as did the similar process in the case of Alger Hiss) a narrowing of the issue. In prohibition times, with the mobs intrenched in local governments, the Federal government improvised the device of laying the murderous thugs by the heel through income tax violations. That was, no doubt, a necessary detour. So it has been with the departing Administration sheltering suspected Soviet agents from the inquisitorial darts of Congressional committees. In this situation it has been the grand jury that has been the last resort of the public and yet the measures open to a grand jury do not fit the crime.

What the country needs and richly deserves is a comprehensive airing of the supposed treason amongst officials, bureaucrats and advisers of the outgoing Administration. Such an airing can best come from Congressional investigations and not, as the Alsop brothers have proposed, by means of an American counterpart of the Royal Commission. Other lands, other manners, and with us the Congressional inquiry has for generations guarded the country's interests against Executive abuses, exposing evildoers and evil alike.

Given an Administration, such as we shall have within a few days, intent upon rooting out enemy subversion, why should not the whole history of treasonable official connections with foreign governments be related? The Executive branch need only cooperate with Congressional investigators, instead of hampering them as did Truman, to bring much into the light of day.

The Washington Grand Jury, incidentally, did a prompt and effective job in this matter. We hear that the 23 grand jurors unanimously voted all seven counts of the Lattimore indictment, that they cut short the presentation of testimony by serving notice on the assistant attorneys general attending them that they had heard enough. It may interest those who hold that only white Anglo-Saxons are interested in opposing treason, proven or putative, that seven of the jury were Negroes and five of the Jewish faith.

Trading with the Enemy

Before the spectacle of Czechoslovak Bolshevism devouring its children gives way in the public mind to the next Soviet horror, we should like to call attention to an extraordinary situation. Czechoslovakia, it will be remembered, is still holding the American newspaperman, William F. Oatis, in jail. And as a Soviet satellite it is among those governments which the Administration is ostensibly seeking to prevent from enjoying Western trade and accumulating American dollars.

Yet that same government, an enemy of the American people and of Western civilization, is openly doing business in the United States. It is selling Czech goods in Czechoslovakia for American dollars paid in this country.

We have before us a circular put out by the Darex Trading Co. Ltd., "a corporation of Czechoslovakia having stores located only in Czechoslovakia." Its U. S. representative is John Fisher, 465 Lexington Avenue, New York City. Darex advertises itself as "the perfect gift service" and assures prospective buyers that they will

> . . . save time and worry with the dispatching of a parcel. You will economize on transport and you will simultaneously avoid the risk of loss. As a result of eliminating the long sea journey, our gift service is one of the quickest and safest in the world. . . . If you leave the choice of a gift to the person who is to receive it, he is enabled to select freely from our comprehensive stocks, such articles as he needs. . . .

Seven pages are devoted to a list of these "comprehensive stocks." And comprehensive is the word. Here are the main headings:

Textiles; Leather Goods; Cut Glassware; Electrical Appliances (including wireless sets); Sewing Machines; Prams; Bicycles; Motorcycles; Motor Cars (up to $2000); Optical Apparatus; Firearms (and ammunition); Foodstuffs; Liqueurs and Distillates; Cigarettes; Miscellaneous (jewels, watches, typewriters, fishing tackle, etc.); Building Materials. Prices for wood and roofing materials, floor covering, iron rails, etc., will be quoted on request.

Some of the items which this Czech corporation offers to deliver in Czechoslovakia for American dollars strike us as peculiar. What individual in that country where all industry is nationalized, could—or would be permitted—to make use of iron rails? Who but a Communist commissar would be allowed to accept an American-donated Skoda car? Who, outside the army or the police, would be permitted to receive a gift of arms and ammunition? Who, not in favor with the government, would be permitted to receive a wireless set, a camera, a typewriter?

How much business Darex does in these curious items we do not know. We do not know how many generous friends the Czech Communist government and its favored hangers-on have in this country. What this circular makes clear, however, is that if there are such people, there is nothing to prevent them from supplying the Czech government with large gifts of American dollars with which to "buy" goods which it already owns.

We do know, however, that many Americans with needy friends and relatives in Czechoslovakia are patronizing Darex. And we know why. The circular says: "Gifts to Czechoslovakia are delivered duty free." That is the lever with which Darex pries dollars out of these unfortunates. For they have learned that when they send packages from this country the duties demanded from the recipients are prohibitive; and if they are not paid the goods are confiscated.

The duties levied fluctuate with the black market value of the Czech *kron*. Officially the exchange rate is *k*49 to the dollar; on the black market it is from 700 to a thousand. We have a friend whose relatives in Czechoslovakia were forced to pay *k*1000 ($1.00) duty on a can of Crisco which cost $1.20, *k*800 ($.80) on an 87-cent pound of coffee, and *k*7500 ($7.50) on four yards of cotton goods bought in this country for $3.50. To most Czechoslovaks such duties are prohibitive; the American donors, therefore, are obliged to choose between enriching Czech Communist bureaucrats with confiscated American goods while their friends and relatives continue in need, and enriching the Czech Communist government with coveted American dollars. For the benefit of those who would answer that the amounts thus garnered must be negligible, we would point out that no Communist government has ever been distinguished by charity, and that if the trade were not highly profitable Darex would not be in business.

Why is it in business, anyhow, save to collect American dollars which may eventually come back to this country as payment for strategic materials used to kill Americans in Korea? Darex should be sent packing; and we suspect that if it were, American relief packages sent to Czechoslovakia would soon be received there once more duty free, just as they were formerly.