

IV. CONCLUSION

As Mr. Roy comes around to the conclusion, after his devious meanderings through a great field of information where he picks and chooses according to that which makes his whitewash, he finally says, "The manual's discussion of the churches displayed such astounding incompetence that to analyze it line by line would be to give an inane document too much serious consideration." But his entire book has been written, beginning and ending with the consideration of the Air Force Training Manual, and when we get to the end Roy has not yet gotten down to a line to line discussion of it. In fact, he cannot do it. Yet, he apparently feels this failure to do so. The facts in that Manual stand up and only by twisting, misrepresenting, or ignoring these facts is it possible for Roy to draw his unfounded conclusions.

At the very end of his writing, Mr. Roy insists that there has been "an alarming failure to understand the vast chasm that has divided genuine democrats from Communists and Communist sympathizers. Millions of Americans do not yet appreciate the basic differences between the intelligent, independent thinking of the Oxnam and the Mackays, on one hand, over and against the consistent pro-Soviet views of the Wards and the Spoffords on the other."

And then again he contradicts his "miniscule" observation by saying, "It has enabled professional malcontents to spread distrust of church leadership—a distrust that is far more widespread across America than is sometimes recognized."

Yet, when Dr. John A. Mackay calls for the recognition of Red China and "peaceful coexistence" and Bishop Oxnam joins him in these demands, they are asking for the same, identical political ends that Khrushchev himself called for when he came to the United Nations in New York City. Mr. Roy may attempt to make a distinction and a difference, but in the opinion of the rank and file of American church people, they are asking for the same thing that Khrushchev asks for — "peaceful coexistence" and "recognition of Red China"! There is no "vast chasm" on these questions!

It is significant that throughout the book Roy does not get around to a discussion of these matters as far as the Oxnam and the Mackays are concerned. The line at this point between "genuine democrats" and "Communist sympathizers" on these issues is very thin indeed!

Finally, Mr. Roy credits the Communist Party with having accomplished something good in the United States. He adds, "It is ironic that with all the deceit and arrogance and rigidity and slavishness of the Communist Party, it helped to bring to the American scene an exciting and contagious, though indeed devious, passion for justice" (p. 429). So here Roy just touches on the social dream of the Reds which is akin to the modernist Kingdom of God society!

The men who have been collaborating with the Communists, preaching "peaceful coexistence" with them, so far as the religious leadership is concerned, have turned out to be the able anti-Communists, according to Roy;

while those who have been opposing the policies which the Communists themselves have been advocating turn out to be *de facto* allies of the Reds.

All of this has been developed and financed by the Fund for the Republic. It is unrealistic, and, if this is accepted by church people of the United States, it can only spell confusion and disaster for the church and the nation. Anyone who reads the book without a background of information and factual material could be led to follow Roy's conclusion. But one with a background of information and a wealth of factual material with which to evaluate the book can see that Ralph Lord Roy is doing a service not only to the cause of the church leaders who have been in difficult circumstances because of their collaboration with the Communists, but that he has also rendered the Communist cause a great service. People do not need to fear Communist infiltration and activity in religious circles, because it is now at the zero point! What more could the Communists desire as a cover and protection for their stepped-up activity in the field of religion?

The book, *Communism and the Churches*, is indeed "Operation Whitewash"!

One of the most important developments exemplifying the Communist triumph in religion occurred shortly before Mr. Roy closed his book. He does not refer to it or mention it. It has to do with the Russian Baptists and the election of Jakov Zhidkov of Moscow, a Communist agent, to be the vice-president of the Baptist World Alliance. Zhidkov spoke at the Baptist World Alliance meeting in Brazil and presented, as the fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy and the program behind which all Christians should unite, the peace program that Nikita Khrushchev outlined before the United Nations. The conflict over Zhidkov has shaken the entire Baptist world. Roy apparently considered it best to ignore it.

The prophets of the National Council of Churches whom Roy defends correspond in a measure to those of Jeremiah's day of whom he wrote in Chapter 23, verses 16, 17, 21, 22, and 32:

"Thus saith the Lord of hosts, Hearken not unto the words of the prophets that prophesy unto you; they make you vain: they speak a vision of their own heart, and not out of the mouth of the Lord. They say still unto them that despise me, The Lord hath said, Ye shall have peace; and they say unto every one that walketh after the imagination of his own heart, No evil shall come upon you. . . . I have not sent these prophets, yet they ran: I have not spoken to them, yet they prophesied. But if they had stood in my counsel, and had caused my people to hear my words, then they should have turned them from their evil way, and from the evil of their doings. . . . Behold, I am against them that prophesy false dreams, saith the Lord, and do tell them, and cause my people to err by their lies, and by their lightness; yet I sent them not, nor commanded them: therefore they shall not profit this people at all, saith the Lord."