**Adaptation of Soviet Ambassador Nikolai Novikov’s telegram to Soviet Leadership in September 1946**

The foreign policy of the United States, which reflects the imperialist tendencies of American monopolistic capital, is characterized in the postwar period by a striving for world supremacy. This is the real meaning of the many statements by President Truman and other representatives of American ruling circles: that the United States has the right to lead the world. All the forces of American diplomacy-the army, the air force, the navy, industry, and science-are enlisted in the service of this foreign policy. For this purpose broad plans for expansion have been developed and are being implemented through diplomacy and the establishment of a system of naval and air bases stretching far beyond the boundaries of the United States, through the arms race, and through the creation of ever newer types of weapons.

…during the Second World War...(America)…would succeed in avoiding, at least for a long time, the main battles in Europe and Asia. They calculated that the United States of America, if it was unsuccessful in completely avoiding direct participation in the war, would enter it only at the last minute, when it could easily affect the outcome of the war, completely ensuring its interests.

In this regard, it was thought that the main competitors of the United States would be crushed or greatly weakened in the war, and the United States by virtue of this circumstance would assume the role of the most powerful factor in resolving the fundamental question of the postwar world.

**Adaptation of former Vice President Henry A Wallace’s letter to President Harry Truman, July 23, 1946**

I have been increasingly disturbed about the trend of international affairs since the end of the war.

How do American actions since V-J Day appear to other nations? I mean by actions the concrete things like $13 billion for the War and Navy Departments, the Bikini tests of the atomic bomb and continued production of bombs, the plan to arm Latin America with our weapons, production of B-29s and planned production of B-36s, and the effort to secure air bases spread over half the globe from which the other half of the globe can be bombed. I cannot but feel that these actions must make it look to the rest of the world as if we were only paying lip service to peace at the conference table.

These facts rather make it appear either (1) that we are preparing ourselves to win the war which we regard as inevitable or (2) that we are trying to build up a predominance of force to intimidate the rest of mankind. How would it look to us if Russia had the atomic bomb and we did not, if Russia had 10,000-mile bombers and air bases within a thousand miles of our coastlines, and we did not?

Our resistance to her attempts to obtain warm water ports and her own security system in the form of “friendly” neighboring states seems, from the Russian point of view, to clinch the case. After twenty-five years of isolation and after having achieved the status of a major power, Russia believes that she is entitled to recognition of her new status. Our interest in establishing democracy in Eastern Europe, where democracy by and large has never existed, seems to her an attempt to reestablish the encirclement of unfriendly neighbors which was created after the last war and which might serve as a springboard of still another effort to destroy her.

**Adaptation of Winston Churchill's**

***“*Iron Curtain Speech” of 1946**

*(Winston Churchill was British Prime Minister 1940-1955)*

A shadow has fallen upon the lands just lit by the Allied victory. Nobody knows what Soviet Russia and its Communist international organization intends to do in the immediate future, or what are the limits, if any, to their desire to expand.

We do understand the Russian need to be secure on her western frontiers by the removal of all possibility of German aggression. But…An *iron curtain* has descended across Europe. Behind the line of that iron curtain lie all the capitals of the ancient states of Central and Eastern Europe. All these famous cities and the populations around them lie in what I must call the Soviet sphere, and all are subject in some form to Soviet influence and a very high degree of Soviet control…

Except in Britain and the United States, Communist parties are a growing challenge and danger to Christian civilization.

I do not believe that Soviet Russia desires war. What they desire are the fruits of war and the expansion of their power and ideas. But what we have to consider is the permanent prevention of war and the establishment of conditions of freedom and democracy as quickly as possible in all countries.

**Adaptation of Joseph Stalin’s “Reply to Churchill” 1946**

Mr. Churchill is basically trying to start a war. Like Hitler, Mr. Churchill begins to set war loose with a racial theory. Churchill’s theory is that only nations speaking the English language are fully valuable nations, and that they should decide the destinies of the entire world.

As a result of the German invasion, the Soviet Union lost about 7,000,000 people, several times more men than Britain and the United States together. It may be that some people are trying to forget the sacrifices of the Soviet people, which insured the liberation of Europe from Hitler. But the Soviet Union cannot forget.

So can it really be a surprise the Soviet Union, in a desire to ensure its security for the future, wants to make sure that its neighboring countries are loyal? How can you call these peaceful wishes of the Soviet Union "desires to expand"?

Mr. Churchill claims to be a friend of the common people. But common people are not as simple as many think, and they know how to stand up for themselves. They are the ones who support Communist parties in Europe.

# Questions

**Henry Wallace Letter**

1. Who was Henry Wallace? When did he write this letter?
2. What was Wallace’s main argument?

**Novikov Telegram**

1. Who was Nikolai Novikov? When did he write this telegram?
2. How does Novikov describe the United States? What evidence does he use to support his description?
3. What does he claim the United States planned during the Second World War?
4. Your Hypothesis **using bullet points**: Who is primarily responsible for the Cold War-The United States or the Soviet Union?

**Iron Curtain Speech**

1. Who is Winston Churchill? Why would Americans trust what he has to say about the Soviet Union?
2. What does Churchill claim that the Soviet Union wanted?
3. What is the Iron Curtain?

**Stalin’s Reply**

1. Who is Joseph Stalin?
2. What does Stalin accuse Churchill of doing?
3. Who does Stalin claim support the Communist parties in Europe?
4. Your Hypothesis: Who is primarily responsible for the Cold War-Why?