

'Communism No Longer World Force' - Canada's Pearson

Communism is no longer a solid and united world political force according to Lester B. Pearson, Prime Minister of Canada.

Mr. Pearson, who will in the near future retire from government service, expresses his views on Communism, youth, the Bomb, and the future of society in an article entitled: "The Quest for Peace" appearing in the Winter 1967 issue of **WORLD ORDER**, a quarterly publication of the National Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of the United States.

"Communism," he states, "is not a system of life or rule that our free societies will tolerate. But it is not any longer the solid and united world political force that, with justification we thought it to be some years back, driving towards world domi-

nation even at the risk of world conflict.

"It cannot be assumed," he continues, "that if a state goes Communist by domestic action, that state now automatically becomes a satellite of Moscow or Peking; and thereby a threat to peace."

Individual Communist governments are now interpreting Communist theory "to mean what they consider it expedient to mean, in terms of their own national interests. Often these interests dictate increasing contact and co-operation with the West. This may give us new opportunities to develop relations with some Communist countries on a more rational basis than formerly."

Speaking of the youth of today, Mr. Pearson sees them as less conformist but more involved, more aware and

concerned. "Their revolutions are less political and more social; they are not impressed by the "inevitability of gradualness." Their rebellious impatience shows itself at times in strange and irrational ways. Unfortunately, it is the strange and irrational and 'off beat' that gets the headlines, so the total picture gets distorted."

He sees youth today as facing greater dangers and tensions than any past generation and the consequences of which can be more catastrophic than ever before in history. While he sees the need for youth to do something about all this, he also sees the need for moderation. Youth must recognize he points out, "that progress through change cannot be imposed overnight from on high, but rises slowly and patiently from the individual's own thought and responsible action."

Expressing his thoughts on the atom bomb he states, "The Bomb has brought to our world a new cloud of terror. It has also confirmed beyond any further doubt or argument the universal neighborhood, if not the universal brotherhood of man.

"All of us must learn to live as one family under the sun or we will all die as separate families under the mushroom cloud."

The power, influence and survival of a political system in today's evolving world community, will probably depend more on the social and economic advantages it gives to its own people, Mr. Pearson states.

He sees "the societies most likely to endure may increasingly become those which can best meet legitimate demands of their own people for equal opportunity to realize and enjoy their fullest human capacities."