

to the Soviet Union again, giving it two crossings--two crossings with one railroad.

Well, that's why these countries are far apart, because there are no railroads, no roads. Not a single, all-weather, paved highway crosses this zone. If there were dense populations of people on both sides of the mountains demanding transportation, the mountains wouldn't stop it. It isn't the mountains. It is what people are doing--their attitudes, objectives, and technical skills--that determines that this is a barrier zone. It happens to be associated with mountains and deserts.

The Soviet Union, then, of course, is isolated on the north by ice and snow and fog. It has the longest coastline in the world, and no ice-free ports. That's the old story. The Soviet Union, under the Czars and before the Communists, was put together in sort of a vacuum in the absence of pressures from outside. If this had not been true and if the Chinese had moved north instead of south in their expansion from their culture hearth, then the Czars could not possibly have stood up against the invaders. But there were no invaders. Ever since the Tartars came out of Mongolia there has been no major invasion into this area. The only invasion came from the West.

Therefore, the Soviet Union is deeply concerned about Eastern Europe, which was set up originally by the Western Powers for the purpose of guarding against the Communists. After World War II these same countries were taken over for purposes of guarding against the Western nations.