

talking about a new atmosphere and new conditions, I think requires us to look at this whether we go along with what he says or not. There certainly has been some loosening of the alliances by virtue of the fact that the pressures are not so great between ourselves and the Soviet in the area as they have been. There may be some danger that Iran will tend more toward neutralism than close alliance with the West. There has even been some talk of the common U.S. and Soviet interest in preventing conflict in the area, which might lead to some cooperation between ourselves and the Soviet to do something about that.

I must say that there hasn't been anything on the Soviet side, nothing that they have indicated in the way of evidence that they want to negotiate any kind of detente or new relationship in the Middle East. Certainly, we haven't had the same kind of crises with them that we had before - the old type - but nevertheless they're still pounding away on the theme of national liberation from Western influence, of these countries, and what it means is, bringing them more toward the path of socialism of the kind that the Soviets themselves have within the Soviet Bloc.

The Russians, nevertheless, have continued to be very cautious without, it seems to me, any basic change in their overall aim which is to gain a dominant position. Now, whether their aims now in the Middle East are directed as much against the Chinese as against us, it's hard to say. There are some who hold to this theory. It seems to me the Chinese have not made very much impact on the Middle East either on the governments or on the communist movements of the Middle East yet; they're certainly trying; or whether it's aimed primarily against us. The cold war, so far as