

TRANSCRIPT

Interview of Cyrus Eaton by
Gunnar Back, Director of News
and Special Events, WFIL-TV.

At Union League, Phila.
January 16, 1958

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- Mr. Back : Mr. Eaton, you have had some experience with Soviet scientists, who met in common with Western scientists. What do you think is going to be the influence, in the Soviet Union, of the rising intellectual and technological class, the scientist? Will they influence policy, foreign policy and political policy?
- Mr. Eaton : I think the scientists in Russia are the most influential group in that country. Education has made enormous strides in Russia in recent years, and that is recognized by everyone. A scientist is an objective man. He understands the deadly nature of the new war weapons that are being developed, but beyond that his interest is not mainly in the forms of economy or philosophy, but he would like to see the people of Russia better off, have more of the nice things of this life, and I think his influence is great - it's for the good, and we ought to make friends with him immediately.
- Mr. Back : As I understand it, there will be another meeting on a world-wide level of scientists, from the Soviet Union as well as other countries.
- Mr. Eaton : Yes, the scientists of all countries have recently said they want another conference, and the steps are now being taken to bring about a further conference at a very early date that would take in Russia. Russia has offered to meet anywhere, anytime, with scientists of the rest of the world looking toward establishing peace.

Mr. Back : Are you convinced that the Soviet scientist fully knows what a nuclear war would be and mean to him?

Mr. Eaton : I think the Russian scientist appreciates that more thoroughly than the scientist of any other country, and certainly much more keenly than the statesmen of other countries.

Mr. Back: How do you feel, Mr. Eaton, that the people of this country, who may subscribe to your point of view, could make their feelings felt?

Mr. Eaton: I think they must speak up immediately, before it is too late. They must speak up vigorously and the approach ought to be through local affiliations, city councils, chambers of commerce, especially the business people of the community, all of whose great investments would be wiped out in a nuclear war. Of course, the teacher, the preacher, and the newspaper man and the radio man, they all ought to join in urging peace throughout the world.

Mr. Back: Mr. Eaton, in your judgment, you feel that Mr. Dulles approaches the whole thing from the wrong point of view.

Mr. Eaton: I think Mr. Dulles is a thoroughly sincere man, but I think he is filled with fanaticism against anything that is Russian. He disapproves of them so thoroughly, he distrusts them so completely, that I believe he would go so far as to risk all that civilization has produced, in the hope that he might kill off Russia and the Communists. That can't be done. We don't have the military power, we don't have the economic strength, we don't have the diplomats, to overthrow Communism in Russia, in China, or in the satellites at this time.

Mr. Back: Mr. Eaton, in the disarmament talks, the Soviet Union has constantly been holding we ought to make a simple agreement not to test nuclear weapons for a few years. The Russians do not want to make any other conditions. They want that to be a paper agreement. We want something more than that. Do you feel we ought to go along with the Soviet Union on their basis?

Mr. Eaton:

I do not believe that the Soviet Union would insist on that as a condition now. I do not believe we would lose much if we agreed to that and gave it a trial for a couple of years while we were working out other details.

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