

# The Globe and Mail

TORONTO, MONDAY, JUNE 20, 1960

## Cyrus Eaton Sizes Up the Soviets

By JOHN GALE

London Observer Service

London—Mr. Cyrus Eaton, the immensely rich and powerful American industrialist who has made such notable individual efforts to bring about an understanding between Russia and the United States, has been staying at Claridges in London after a tour of Eastern Europe. He is a very active 76, slim and white-haired, with grey-blue eyes, a lined face, and an incisive pointed nose. He seemed calm, wise and courteous. There was nothing noticeably eccentric about him.

He feels relations between East and West should be no more difficult than sensible coexistence between labor and management. And he said that Premier Khrushchev, whom he knows pretty well, reminds him in many ways of leading American labor leaders he has dealt with.

"At the Summit he had to be very emphatic in the position he took in order to show he meant what he said," Mr. Eaton said. "I don't feel he ever lost control. I saw him in Paris when he was about to leave Orly and I never saw a man more in control of his feelings and manner of speaking. I think he emphasized that the next day with the restraint of his speech in East Berlin.

"He's very much the product of his background; born on a farm; worked in a coal mine as a young man; made a study of government and economics later, some of it under the influence of Mrs. Khrushchev who was a teacher of political science and is a very wise woman—and I would think exercises a great influence on Khrushchev's life."

Was Mr. Eaton surprised the Summit failed? "No. There was increasing evidence in America that the Government was not planning to do much more than make the Summit Conference an incident and not a serious move toward peace. I was astonished at Khrushchev's restraint and moderation between Camp David and his arrival in Paris. Because coming from the American side there was so much continued evidence of hostility. . . . Most of it was the rather tiresome repetition of the old party line; namely that Communism is something to be feared and hated."

"And you don't believe this?"

"Well, I'm about as far removed from Communism in practice and theory as a man can get. But I enjoy good health and the Americans are having a good life. I can't see any point in committing suicide under those circumstances.

"The Pentagon is characterized by undue conceit and lack of appreciation of what the scientists of the Soviet Union and Red China can do. Our State Department is still filled largely with the appointees of Mr. John Foster Dulles. They go all the way up. Mr. Dulles was quite a brilliant man; but when a brilliant man goes wrong, he gives more plausible reasons to defend his position than if he were stupid.

"When he came to office he announced his policy: First, to unleash Chiang Kai-shek and restore China to his nomination; secondly, to liberate the satellites. Hercules had an easier job with the stables than any of this.

"I've just been to the so-called satellites. Anyone who wants to reach any sort of understanding with them should abandon the use of that term. They want to be Socialist nations. In most ways they exercise complete independence. But they're going to remain in sympathy with the Soviet Union. I think the Soviet Union gets along with them by the practice of clever diplomacy."

Was Mr. Eaton pessimistic? "I am, extremely, sometimes. Some accident could happen that could touch off the disaster. But I'm still hopeful that we may be able to change the shouts and threats of the fanatics and lunatics in Washington who are apparently willing to run the risk of annihilating mankind. A great deal of this is based on their woeful lack of information about what is going on in the Soviet Union, China and Eastern Europe."

Mr. Eaton said he had a great affection for Russia and its literature all his life. In the First World War he had a lot to do with the financing of Russian purchases of equipment in America. On his vacation at Pugwash, Nova Scotia (where he was born), he had had as his guests Russian and Chinese scholars and scientists. His interest in foreign affairs had been in part stimulated by his uncle, at one time the Baptist minister of John D. Rockefeller (Eaton's first employer) and, later chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of Congress and one of the signatories of the United Nations Charter.

"I think recently the American Government has been entirely wrong in its foreign policy," Mr. Eaton said. "It's been based on extreme fear and deadly hatred of Communism. We don't need to fear it at all, if we continue to make the most of our own resources and progress. To me it's a great sign of weakness that America, which doesn't have a single Socialist Congressman or mayor, should feel it's about to become Communist. I'm all for keeping the capitalist system. But let the Socialists go on being Socialists, and let's trade with them.

"We're wasting \$50 billion a year on the manufacture of armaments which, if ever they were used, would destroy all of us. The idea that we can maintain peace by being stronger than any other nation is a very dangerous policy. If it's sound for the United States it's equally sound for the Soviet Union. I'm all for taking any risks in pursuing a policy of total disarmament. That's far less expensive and far less dangerous than the one we're pursuing."