

BY: P.A. Curtis Joseph

I could not believe my eyes when I read Mrs. Thatcher's statement on the eve of her trip to Moscow in SUNDAY TRIBUNE of 22nd March, 1987, page 2.

She was reported as saying that speeches by Soviet Leader Mikhail Gorbachev were "a clear admission that the communist system is not working." But has the capitalist system worked in Britain after the demise of the EMPIRE ON WHICH THE SUN NEVER SETS?

Despite the fact that the Industrial Revolution started in Britain, what has happened to British industries, especially since Margaret Thatcher came to power and now running the second term like her political master, Ronald Reagan of the U.S.?

Many industries have closed down. Unemployment has passed the three million figure. Foreigners, Americans and Arabs especially have bought out many British companies. Even the Asians have taken over most of small British enterprises. The English breakfast centres are no more around.

Compare what Britain was fifty years ago and what she is now in industrial growth. The decline is great. To compare what the Soviet Union was fifty years ago and what she is now in the same field, the progress is remarkable.

Thatcher said: "Far from enabling the Soviet Union to catch up with the West, it is falling behind." It is Britain that has fallen woefully behind by becoming a third rate power. A country that once

ruled the waves cannot rule the winds except in Falk-land Islands and with the assistance of the U.S. to which she has become a n extension .

If the old Czarist Russia did not become a socialist state, there will be no Soviet Union made up of fifteen Republics. Only a sam-leton will say that the Soviet Union has not made a remarkable progress in all fields.

I think the greatest mistake the Soviet Union made was to open her doors too wide and too early in the sixties to the Western countries. It should have waited till 1970. Despite all attempts t o destabilise the country by many devious ways, it is still growing stronger, though the arms race slows down the progress of building their new way of life.

The economic system of the Soviet Union is such that every citizen is affected by material and human resources diverted to compete in the arms race. But they understand and are always ready to make the sacrifices.

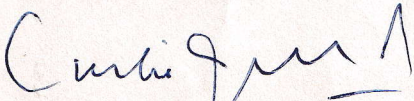
It is unlike, for instance, the United States where the arms manufacturers are private individuals and companies who make huge profits on arms. The more the race, the more they are peppy. And the more conflicts their Government can cause in other parts of the world, the more arms are needed and the more the profits roll in to private pockets and the masses suffer.

Mrs. Thatcher talked and behaved like a clown employed by Ronald Reagan when she said the goal of her Moscow visit was "a peace based not on illusion or surrender, but on realism and strength".

She knows that she and Britain have no strength without relying on America. The only strength she has is to deal with opposition at home and the Miners Union.

Can Mrs. Thatcher honestly say that a country that has been haunting her, Reagan and their co-travellers for four decades, a country that can match the U.S. in nuclear technology, that blazed the trail of space exploration is running a system that does not work.

By the time she comes back from Moscow, she will think again and realise that the plans to recolonise Africa, to support Apartheid, to deny Namibia of Independence cannot work.



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