

do, for our own sake, for now we control forces which match those of nature itself and produce machines capable of multiplying the power of our arms and brain. For the first time we may decisively influence our future, create a great society or totally destroy it.

Therefore our thinking has to acquire a new dimension, in keeping with human expectations and the dangers and opportunities of our various societies at this point of history; failing which we may all too easily lose control of the shrinking arena of growing contrasts which is our world.

I will attempt to give some indications as to what kind of thinking in my opinion we should produce not only to keep this explosive arena manageable during the next decade, but also to insure that life therein can be lived in a way befitting our quality as civilized human beings.

Above all, the new relation between man and his future poses problems of leadership.

If we take our macrocosm, the world as a whole, the first-choice first-refusal right to leadership should be in the hands of peoples and countries capable of taking up the main challenge of our times. I am convinced that West and West alone can, at the present time, muster the intellectual and organizational capacities in order to marshal and guide the tremendous pace of the technological revolution and to provide thereby means and rules for the progress and prosperity of all mankind.

Furthermore, Western culture can greatly contribute, in a joint effort with the other new and older cultures of the world, to the solution of the supreme dilemma of how to reconcile man with the world which he himself is progressively de-humanizing.

However, at the present reading the West has not yet picked up this leadership option. Although in the race for progress it is way out ahead, this hardly means that it is offering guidance to the others. It is not even clear if the West knows itself where it is going.

The Western nations in fact are not united. And lack of unity has so far prevented them from taking a constructive long-range lead in world affairs.

Moreover, their unprecedented riches and the protection of the U.S. nuclear umbrella are lulling them into the illusion that they can live permanently in a privileged position.

This is another reason why we should wake up to the complexities of our world and think well ahead.

THE ONION LAYERS CONCEPT

It is not only a question of updating our mental approach. The necessity of forecasting and planning for the future will have to be profoundly rethought and the supersonic and superhuman speed of our time gives us very little respite.

Looking ahead, the first question is what new and convenient reference framework can be devised to replace the now obsolete and misleading North-South, East-West schematization.

Let me then sketch a unitary view of the world, a kind of model for the next decade, although I have to concede that it is an optimist's view. I hope it may help formulate our forward thinking and systematize our approach to this complex world of ours.

The world is represented by a strong core where the main forces of progress are centered and which exerts leadership; and that is in fact the Atlantic Community. Around this great Atlantic center, irradiating force and support, are concentric belts of countries linked to the core itself by a variety of bonds and interests which gradually diminish from the center towards the periphery. (See map.)