

Whereas: The Administration has adopted a policy described as "building bridges to the East," which are in reality one-way avenues carrying benefit to the Communist nations with no benefit to the Free World; and,

Whereas: Most serious is the policy of the State Department of encouraging Western Businessmen to participate in the development of a strong industrial capacity in Communist countries which can only increase the Communist ability to compete with the West in either economic or military ways;

Therefore Be It Resolved, that Young Americans for Freedom, Inc. opposes all trade of a strategic nature with any communist nation, and,

Be It Further Resolved; that we will employ all our rights under the Constitution and all our efforts as a political action organization to inform the American people of any proposed deals of a strategic nature, and toward this end we recommend the creation of a special YAF advisory committee of prominent citizens, businessmen and experts in the field of foreign trade to advise us in each instance as to whether a trade deal proposed by an American Company would further the political, economic or military potential of the Communists.

EAST-WEST TRADE RESOLUTION

ADOPTED BY THE CHAPTERS, AS REPORTED BY THE COMMITTEE ON RESOLUTIONS OF THE NATIONAL CONVENTION OF YOUNG AMERICANS FOR FREEDOM, 1967

Whereas, the struggle between freedom and communism is total, not by our choice, but by the nature of our adversary, and encompasses all means of competition, including military, political and economic; and

Whereas, it should be the policy of the United States to win this struggle with a minimum of overt military conflict, and therefore the United States should regulate its economic policies with full consideration of the likely effect upon the Communist capabilities for competition;

Therefore be it resolved that Young Americans for Freedom, Inc. opposes all trade of a strategic nature with any Communist nation so long as they wage war against us though we support the use of trade in non-strategic items as a weapon of cold war policy.

Be it further resolved that we condemn the policy of the present administration of extending credits to Communist countries.

Be it further resolved that we will employ all our rights under the Constitution and all our efforts as a political action organization to inform the American people of any proposed deals of a strategic nature.

[From the New Guard, August 1965]

A STATEMENT OF POLICY—TRADING WITH THE ENEMY

Early this spring our Philadelphia YAF organization learned that the Firestone Tire and Rubber Co. was negotiating with the government of Communist Rumania to build an entire synthetic rubber plant in that country. Few needed an explanation of the vital and strategic role which synthetic rubber plays in any war effort or the buildup of military power.

What was started by Philadelphia YAF sparked a wave of protest demonstrations around the nation. As a climax of the campaign to inform the public of the Firestone negotiations, which were fully approved by the State Department, YAF planned an appropriate demonstration at the Memorial Day "Indianapolis 500" race. It is at this annual auto racing classic that the major tire and rubber companies stage their most intensive promotion.

Abruptly, on April 20, 1965, Firestone announced that it was cancelling all negotiations with the Rumanians. It was obvious that Firestone feared economic losses at home because of their participation in a trade deal with the Reds.

The Fulbright speech

The incident appeared closed until July 26. On that day Senator William Fulbright (D-Ark.) took the Senate Floor to denounce YAF, Firestone, the State