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SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 1960.

Khrushchev Invites Himself

Nikita Khrushchev has invited himself to the United Nations General Assembly meeting here later this month, and apparently nothing much can be done about it. There is the solace, however, that this time he does not come as the guest of the President of the United States—or in fact as the guest of any American. Consequently there is no need for any of us to extend him any extraordinary courtesies or to do much for him other than the basic essential of guaranteeing his physical security.

The man who broke up last May's summit meeting in Paris, who has threatened time and again to destroy us with hydrogen bombs, need expect very little cordiality when he arrives in our midst. Only our respect for the United Nations induces us to tolerate his presence.

By ironic coincidence, the same day that Mr. Khrushchev's decision to come here was announced, one of his newspapers sounded some themes that are worth remembering when Moscow's current tyrant arrives here. Komsomolskaya Pravda denounced Soviet young people who are attracted by the "notorious American way of life." It called for the social ostracism of young Soviet citizens who are friendly to American visitors and who are respectful to American manners and morals.

It would be simple justice if Stalin's successor were to experience some ostracism here. He and the group he represents are both notorious for their addiction to lies and to injustice. And it is not yet four years since Khrushchev's troops stained the streets of Budapest red with the blood of heroic Hungarians fighting for their freedom.

But if the overwhelming majority of our people find the thought of Khrushchev's presence here unpleasant, we need not find it alarming. No doubt this unwelcome tourist is planning to make the United Nations a propaganda forum to woo the minds of men everywhere, but he did that a year ago without any results worth really mentioning. It may well be that while he is here he will unveil another showy but meaningless scheme such as the fraud of "general and universal disarmament" which he sprung upon the world last September. But we have more respect for the intelligence of mankind than to believe that verbal tricks can affect the real situation.

It would be wrong, however, not to note the element of tragedy in the memories the news of the Khrushchev visit must arouse among Americans. A year ago when he first came here there was a little reason to hope against hope that his personal meetings with President Eisenhower and his personal acquaintanceship with the realities of our land might somehow lead to an end of the cold war. Today there can be no such illusion. By Khrushchev's own choice, the cold war is again blowing chill in every part of this now much shrunken and much threatened planet.