

## WILL GOD WEARY OF MANKIND?

The ability of Sir Winston Churchill to produce the striking phrase was never more evident than when he spoke of the dread possibilities to the human race in the use of the Hydrogen bomb. Yet the stark fact remains that the big powers, including Russia, are experimenting with it with a view to its possible use.

Where is the snag? Why, when all the people, including the Russians, contemplate with horror an atomic and hydrogen war, do we go on as if we could not help ourselves? What malign power has us all in its grip?

We do not see any easy way out of the impasse and we certainly do not wish to indulge in the childish pastime of blaming those whom we have placed in authority. We do not believe that our political leaders look with equanimity on the present situation. **What we suggest is that the question of the atomic and hydrogen bomb cannot be separated from the overall question of general disarmament.**

It is obvious, however, that general disarmament depends upon the good faith of each contracting party and a willingness on the part of all to submit to the closest inspection by an independent body like the United Nations organisation.

This, we are given to understand, is the snag for which Russia is responsible. If this is not so, a straight-out declaration on the part of Moscow that Russia is willing to disarm in conjunction with the rest of the world, opening her borders for full inspection, would immediately challenge the accusations, now apparently justified, against her.

To expect such a declaration, however, in view of Communist ideology, is, we fear, to be disappointed. As long as the fanatical belief exists that Communism is destined to cover the earth, and that Russia is the power to accomplish this design, so long will the danger exist of a decisive war—a war to decide whether the world shall have freedom or slavery.

In such an event we shall go through a period of darkness and suffering unprecedented in the history of the human race, and it may well seem that God has wearied of mankind, though religious faith will yet echo the words of Job, "though he slay me, yet will I trust in him." Our belief is that we shall yet emerge out of the dark night of the world, and that mankind will find its soul.

—WILLIAM BOTTOMLEY.