Toynbee Warns Against Opposition To World Trend For Social Justice

By FRYAR CALHOUN

Arnold J. Toynbee, famed British historian, opened the Semicentennial celebration Thursday by characterizing current American involvement in world affairs as the most significant trend in the nation's history.

Speaking to a packed Music Hall, Dr. Toynbee noted the United States' determination not to let Soviet Russia pursue aggressive policies while this country stands idly by as she did while Hitler and Mussolini rose to power.

CALLING THE change in American attitude a "dramatic reversal," he continued, "Before 1946 the American people believed that the international power game was a crime and a folly that was peculiar to the depraved nations of the Old World. Today, the United States is playing the very power game herself."

Dr. Toynbee's speech was unfortunately cut short by lack of time. In the rest of his prepared text he speculated about why Americans have responded to the Russian threat so much more rapidly and energetically than to the Nazi menace:

"ONE CAUSE ... is simply the fact that, for some reason, it was Stalin and not Hitler whose aggressiveness made America aware that her traditional policy of self-isolation was now bankrupt."

But, he continued, a more basic reason is that the American people see this struggle in the traditional terms of hostility to "Old World tyrants and oppressors."

However, Dr. Toynbee cautioned against an undiscriminating attack on anything and everything that Communism stands for since "Communism is a tyranny that stands, paradoxically, for economic and social justice as against vested interests."

"IT'S PERFORMANCE evidently falls very far short of its principles; indeed, it sometimes seems positively to belie them. Yet these principles ... are a potent force in the present-day world ... because they express the aspirations of the huge depressed majority of the human race."

He warned that stubborn opposition to the principle of social

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justice as well as the tyranny of Communism will alienate "the poverty-stricken majority of mankind."

"THEREFORE," he continued, "I should say that when we, the rich minority, are opposing Communism, we ought all the time to be searching our hearts... If we ever catch ourselves opposing Communism, not in defense of its victims, but in defense of our own vested interest in the preservation of our own wealth, we ought to take that as a danger-signal and to draw back."

Dr. Toynbee's speech concluded that the striking thing about the United States was "the American people's generosity... characteristic of the American spirit. Here, as I see it, lies the hope for the future of the United States, and therefore, also for the future of the world."