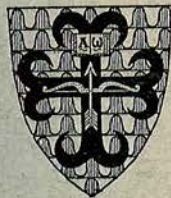


# FROM THE HOUSETOPS



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# CATHOLICS AND COMMUNISM

MOST REV. RICHARD J. CUSHING, D.D.

Archbishop of Boston

I CHOOSE for my subject a theme on which some may feel that too much has already been said. There are those who still call any talk about Communism "Red-Baiting." There are some who resent any discussion of Communism as if such discussion implied disloyalty to one of our allies or were an attack on Russia.

At the very beginning, I wish to clear myself on any such charges. True, at the present moment the Russian State has become the principal instrument through which Communism is working its pernicious will. Accordingly, worried Christians and all men of genuine religious convictions are sometimes suspicious of Russia because of their resentment against organized Communism and the damage it is doing to Christendom in Russia and in the nations under Russian influence.

We must keep clear in our minds, however, the distinction between *Communism* and *Russia*, between the *Communists* and the *Russian people*. It is a distinction which Communists themselves make; a mere fragment of the valiant Russian people are permitted membership in the Communist party, and Communism has done as much violence to the religious, the moral, the social and the cultural life of Russia as it proposes to do, and is in fact now doing, to Poland, to Hungary, to Czechoslovakia, to Lithuania, to Latvia, to Finland, to Jugoslavia, to Germany, to France, to Italy, to Greece, to China, and to Iran. I repeat: We must constantly have before our minds the fact that the struggle against Communism is not a struggle against the Russian people, nor need it take the form of a war, declared or undeclared, against Russia. It is difficult to keep all this clear because the Communists have so identified themselves with the Russian State as to make distinctions between the two almost purely theoretical at the moment, and our radio, newspapers, and other channels of information do not help us keep our concepts clear.

It is difficult for a decent man to read current newspapers, for example, without bitterness toward Communism and without fear of