6. This passage is adapted from a 1950 speech by Dean Acheson, who served as Secretary of State from 1949 to 1953 and strongly influenced United States foreign policy during the Cold War.

However much we may sympathize with the Soviet citizens who for reasons bedded deep in history are obliged to live under it, we are not attempting to change the governmental or social structure of the Soviet Union. The Soviet regime, however, has devoted a major portion of its energies and resources to the attempt to impose its system on other peoples. In this attempt it has shown itself prepared to resort to any method or stratagem, including subversion, threats, and even military force.

Therefore, if the two systems are to coexist, some acceptable means must be found to free the world from the destructive tensions and anxieties of which it has been the victim in these past years and the continuance of which can hardly be in the interests of any people.

I wish, therefore, to speak to you about those points of greatest difference which must be identified and sooner or later reconciled if the two systems are to live together, if not with mutual respect, at least in reasonable security.

It is now nearly 5 years since the end of hostilities, and the victorious Allies have been unable to define the terms of peace with the defeated countries. This is a grave, a deeply disturbing fact. For our part, we do not intend nor wish, in fact we do not know how, to create satellites. Nor can we accept a settlement which would make Germany, Japan, or liberated Austria satellites of the Soviet Union. The experience in Hungary, Rumania, and Bulgaria has been one of bitter disappointment and shocking betrayal of the solemn pledges by the wartime Allies. The Soviet leaders joined in the pledge at Tehran that they looked forward "with confidence to the day when all peoples of the world may live free lives, untouched by tyranny, and according to their varying desires and their own consciences." We can accept treaties of peace which would give reality to this pledge and to the interests of all in security.

With regard to the whole group of countries which we are accustomed to thinking of as the satellite area, the Soviet leaders could withdraw their military and police force and refrain from using the shadow of that force to keep in power persons or regimes which do not command the confidence of the respective peoples, freely expressed through orderly representative processes.

In this connection, we do not insist that these governments have any particular political or social complexion. What concerns us is that they should be truly independent national regimes, with a will of their own and with a decent foundation in popular feeling.

The Soviet leaders could cooperate with us to the end that the official representatives of all countries are treated everywhere with decency and respect and that an atmosphere is created in which these representatives could function in a normal and helpful manner, conforming to the accepted codes of diplomacy.

These are some of the things which we feel that Soviet leaders could do which would permit the rational and peaceful development of the coexistence of their system and ours. They are not things that go to the depths of the moral conflict. They have been formulated by us, not as moralists but as servants of government, anxious to get on with the practical problems that lie before us and to get on with them in a manner consistent with mankind's deep longing for a respite from fear and uncertainty.

Nor have they been formulated as a one-sided bargain. A will to achieve binding, peaceful settlements would be required of all participants. All would have to produce unmistakable evidence of their good faith. All would have to accept agreements in the observance of which all nations could have real confidence.

The United States is ready, as it has been and always will be, to cooperate in genuine efforts to find peaceful settlements. Our attitude is not inflexible, our opinions are not frozen, our positions are not and will not be obstacles to peace. But it takes more than one to cooperate. If the Soviet Union could join in doing things I have outlined, we could all face the future with greater security. We could look forward to more than the eventual reduction of some of the present tensions. We could anticipate a return to a more normal and relaxed diplomatic atmosphere and to progress in the transaction of some of the international business which needs so urgently to be done.

1

What is the main idea of the passage?

A) The Soviet Union's failure to adhere to international agreements poses an immediate threat to American security.

B) Relations between the Soviet Union and the United States will improve if the Soviet Union permits its satellite states greater political self-determination.

C) The Soviet Union will be unable to conduct normal relations with other countries until communism has been thoroughly destroyed.

D) The conduct of the United States toward the Soviet Union is a moral dilemma that cannot be easily resolved.

2

The primary purpose of the passage is to

A) Criticize the Soviet Union for its harsh treatment of peoples under its rule.

B) Suggest that the Soviet Union should model its diplomatic process on that of the United States.

C) Propose a course of action that would result in a reduction of tension between the Soviet Union and the United States.

D) Decry the use of force as a tool for maintaining international order.

3

The main idea of the fourth paragraph (lines 21-37) is that

A) Leaders must act according to their conscience as well as their desires.

B) Control of Soviet satellites will be granted to the United States if the Soviet Union continues to behave unreliably.

C) Soviet control of Germany, Japan, and Austria would inevitably end in disaster.

D) The Soviet Union must abide by its promises in order for the United States to accept its treaties.

4

The author uses Hungary, Rumania, and Bulgaria (lines 28-29) as examples of

A) Soviet leaders' betrayal of their pledge at Tehran.

B) newly liberated satellites of the Soviet Union.

C) countries that the United States want to transform into satellites.

D) nations that have expressed the desire to accept peace treaties.

7. The following passage is adapted from George Orwell, "Keep the Aspidistra Flying," first published in 1936. Gordon, the protagonist, is a poet.

Gordon walked homeward against the rattling wind, which blew his hair backward and gave him more of a 'good' forehead than ever. His manner conveyed to the passers-by—at least, he hoped it did—that if he wore no overcoat it was from pure caprice.

Willowbed Road, NW, was dingy and depressing, although it contrived to keep up a kind of mingy decency. There was even a dentist's brass plate on one of the houses. In quite two-thirds of them, amid the lace curtains of the parlor window, there was a green card with 'Apartments' on it in silver lettering, above the peeping foliage of an aspidistra.*

Mrs. Wisbeach, Gordon's landlady, specialized in 'single gentlemen.' Bed-sitting-rooms, with gaslight laid on and find your own heating, baths extra (there was a geyser), and meals in the tomb-dark dining-room with the phalanx of clotted sauce-bottles in the middle of the table. Gordon, who came home for his midday dinner, paid twenty-seven and six a week.

The gaslight shone yellow through the frosted transom above the door of Number 31. Gordon took out his key and fished about in the keyhole—in that kind of house the key never quite fits the lock. The darkish little hallway—in reality it was only a passage—smelt of dishwater and cabbage. Gordon glanced at the japanned tray on the hall-stand. No letters, of course. He had told himself not to hope for a letter, and nevertheless had continued to hope. A stale feeling, not quite a pain, settled upon his breast. Rosemary might have written! It was four days now since she had written. Moreover, he had sent out to magazines and had not yet had returned to him. The one thing that made the evening bearable was to find a letter waiting for him when he got home. But he received very few letters—four or five in a week at the very most.

On the left of the hall was the never-used parlor, then came the staircase, and beyond that the passage ran down to the kitchen and to the unapproachable lair inhabited by Mrs. Wisbeach herself. As Gordon came in, the door at the end of the passage opened a foot or so. Mrs. Wisbeach's face emerged, inspected him briefly but suspiciously, and disappeared again. It was quite impossible to get in or out of the house, at any time before eleven at night, without being scrutinized in this manner. Just what Mrs. Wisbeach suspected you of it was hard to say. She was one of those malignant respectable women who keep lodging-houses. Age about forty-five, stout but active, with a pink, fine-featured, horribly observant face, beautifully grey hair, and a permanent grievance.

In the familiar darkness of his room, Gordon felt for the gas-jet and lighted it. The room was medium-sized, not big enough to be curtained into two, but too big to be sufficiently warmed by one defective oil lamp. It had the sort of furniture you expect in a top floor back. White-quilted single-bed; brown lino floor-covering; wash-hand-stand with jug and basin of cheap white ware. On the window-sill there was a sickly aspidistra in a green-glazed pot.

Up against this, under the window, there was a kitchen table with an inkstained green cloth. This was Gordon's 'writing' table. It was only after a bitter struggle that he had induced Mrs. Wisbeach to give him a kitchen table instead of the bamboo 'occasional' table—a mere stand for the aspidistra—which she considered proper for a top floor back. And even now there was endless nagging because Gordon would never allow his table to be 'tidied up.' The table was in a permanent mess. It was almost covered with a muddle of papers, perhaps two hundred sheets, grimy and dog-eared, and all written on and crossed out and written on again—a sort of sordid labyrinth of papers to which only Gordon possessed the key. There was a film of dust over everything. Except for a few books on the mantelpiece, this table, with its mess of papers, was the sole mark Gordon's personality had left on the room.

*a bulbous plant with broad leaves, often used as a houseplant.

1

Which choice correctly states the order of events in the passage?

A) A character arrives home, is briefly observed by another character, and retires unhappily to his room.

B) A character arrives home, finds a letter that he has been expecting, and races to his room to read it.

C) A character sneaks into his house, then is stopped by another character with whom he has an unpleasant encounter.

D) A character who is waiting for a letter learns that it has not been sent; later, he narrowly avoids being seen by another character.

2

The primary purpose of the passage is to

A) describe the habits of a somewhat eccentric character.

B) illustrate the difficulties involved in being a writer.

C) foreshadow an ominous development in a character's life.

D) depict an unusual occurrence in a character's routine.