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Peacemaking Sense Of Humor
 quarrels threatening to become big ones, world affairs
are no laughing matter.
But a sense of humor doesn't always need something
to laugh at. It isn't an emotion that is satisfied by slapstick. Nor is it the gift of witty speech that is nourished
by cynicism or a sense of superiority. Both of these are
much too smug to deserve the name. A sense of humor springs from an admission of the
ridiculous pretensions that all of us are guilty of from
time to time. And since every person who is anywhere
near normal is predisposed in his own favor, that admission lends tolerance to one's general outlook.
Such an outlook makes it possible to understand bet more temperate thinking. Without a sense of humor ihe
firmness that General Eisenhower prescribes can become overbearing, and the exercise of patience becomes almost
impossible.

Most of us are in no position to know how much of
nse of humor, as well as patience and firmness, today statesmen bring to world deliberations. But we can guess
from their photographs and their speeches. It might seem that America's Austin has a bit more than Secretary Mar
shall. Russia's Molotov seems to have a vestige of humor Russia's Gromyko, nary a trace.
The presence or absence of a sense of humor among top diplomats conceivably can be of considerable import-
ance. But General Eisenhower was not addressing him
self to the top diplomats when he gave his prescription self to the top diplomats when he gave his prescription
He was talking to his fellow Americans, and his advice policies reflect the temper of its citizens. A democratic
people with a well-developed national sense of humor
would not be likely to ask for anger in their government' We in the U. S. can impress our state of mind on the
government. Most of us are blessed with some sense of world affairs and fix it there, it might even be that we
could warm, by a few degrees, the atmosphere of inter-
national politics Frenzied Finance In Wartime


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