

Crisis in Cuba

and faltered, we saw in these proposals a ray of hope amid the encircling gloom that prevailed in all countries last week. In our opinion the government of Canada, by its failure to give immediate and unequivocal support to the proposals made by the acting secretary general of the United Nations, lost a precious, should I say golden, opportunity to give leadership to the smaller nations. Fortunately, Mr. Speaker, recent events, shall I say recent happy events, now provide another opportunity for Canada to give leadership to these nations, to speak with a firm voice in uniting the smaller nations around a common policy.

Let me say at this point that the members of this party wish the Secretary of State for External Affairs every success in all he undertakes while he is at the United Nations to support the proposals put forward by U Thant, and proposals for continuing negotiation and the practice of statesmanship rather than brinkmanship.

When the Prime Minister was speaking he made reference to the future and mentioned some possibilities for future consideration. Before concluding I wish to suggest that we give firm leadership to the smaller nations and to other nations in support of a policy, some of the essentials of which are:

(1) To continue the dismantling process which was begun in Cuba by a dismantling of missile bases throughout the world;

(2) A firm undertaking by the two nuclear powers that they will bring any and every conflict between them to the United Nations before taking any action in future;

(3) To take advantage of the Soviet agreement for international inspection in Cuba as a precedent for similar inspections as the basis for a general disarmament;

(4) This party is convinced, as indeed it must be obvious to everyone, that the world can no longer afford this dangerous game of brinkmanship on the part of the nuclear powers. The gamble is too great, in the opinion of the members of this party and a good many people in Canada, when the survival of humanity is at stake.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, we urge this government to stand up and speak for Canada with a strong and a firm voice, knowing that it is on the side of right in so doing.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Speaker, I only wish that the rules of the house allowed a reply to the hon. gentleman, but I do want to say one thing, and that is that that is the position which Canada has taken. If he wishes support in that regard he need only turn to the *Washington Post* of October 27, to an editorial entitled "Support from Ottawa", which sets forth most clearly that Canada's attitude

[Mr. Herridge.]

has been one which is acceptable not only to the United States but to the free world generally.

INDIA—REQUEST FOR SUPPLY OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, having said that, I should now say a word with regard to another problem which faces the world. The Leader of the Opposition has referred to the Berlin situation and there is, of course, the problem which is being faced in India by the people of that nation.

Last Monday I informed the house that if the Indian government should approach Canada for assistance, such a request would receive the fullest consideration. I now wish to report to the house that a request has been received from the Indian government, and that we are taking immediate steps to respond. On Friday we gave the Indian authorities a preliminary report on the kinds of military equipment available in Canada. These include Caribou transport planes. In a day or so I hope to be able to inform the house of the details of the supply of equipment to India.

Speaking for the Canadian government, and I hope for all members of the house, we are deeply disturbed at the attacks which are being made at this time against India, a fellow member of the commonwealth. India can rest assured that the Canadian government will co-operate to the fullest in helping that nation acquire those items which it needs to defend itself in this critical hour.

Hon. L. B. Pearson (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I want to tell the Prime Minister that we on this side will certainly support anything the government can do to assist India, through the supply of needed and available equipment, to meet the unprovoked attack upon her territory by a country with which India has been so uniformly friendly in recent years. Anything that can be done to show our support and encouragement for the Indians in facing what amounts to all-out aggression, in so far as the climate and topography makes that possible, will I am sure receive the approval of all the people of Canada. Mr. Speaker, I note that in this connection the prime minister of Australia has already indicated that kind of support and sympathy. I am sure the help which the government can give India in this difficult time for her will be a like indication of that feeling of our friendship and support.

Mr. A. B. Patterson (Fraser Valley): Mr. Speaker, we regret the fact that yet another of these problems has become so critical that a statement such as this has