

National Security Measures

[Translation]

Mr. Gérard Laprise (Abitibi): Mr. Speaker, I would like to take part in this debate which, I think, is most important since it deals with current events. In fact, the right hon. Prime Minister of Canada (Mr. Trudeau) is now on a visit to the Soviet Union and it seems that discussions are under way regarding NATO, of which Canada is a member, and the Warsaw Pact, of which Russia is the most important member.

Mr. Speaker, the motion before us allows us to question the whole defence system as well as the unity of the countries which take part in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, not only as regards defence but also political and economic co-operation.

Therefore, I think that it would be advisable to ask ourselves whether it was necessary for us to belong to NATO. A group of countries does not join in such a treaty without motives. And I think that what motivated this decision by democratic countries resulted from the action of a country which is considered as an enemy and wants to have its totalitarian communist ideology applied throughout the world.

It is the success of the communist block which induced several countries, including Canada, to get together in order to defend themselves against the encroachments of the Soviet Union. Mr. Speaker, as World War II brought about the defeat of two big military and industrial powers, Germany and Japan, as well as the weakening of several others, Russia decided to take advantage of the situation to extend its control over Europe.

The Soviet territorial expansion had begun during the war with the annexation of Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and certain parts of Finland, Poland, Rumania, North-East Germany and East Czechoslovakia, a total of 500,000 square kilometers of land inhabited by more than 23 million people.

This is why Paul-Henri Spaak was saying in 1948 that only one large country had emerged from the war with conquests, that is the Soviet Union. This territorial expansion was pursued after the defeat of Germany and completed by a control policy over the East European countries.

The presence of victorious Russian armies at the core of Europe and the communist infiltration in the so-called governments of "national front" subjected Albania, Bulgaria, Rumania, East Germany, Poland, Hungary and Czechoslovakia to Russian domination, a total area of some 1,020,000 square kilometers, with over 90 million inhabitants.

How was this conquest achieved without war? From early 1947, the communist party launched a violent campaign in Hungary against the party of small land-holders and denunciations and other methods resulted in a great number of arrests.

The Nagy government resigned on May 29 and while the new elections did not give the communist party majority it did become the party with most members in the House. The government, thus infiltrated, proclaimed

[Mr. Roberts.]

the dissolution of opposition parties on November 21, 1947.

In Bulgaria, the operation was conducted in a similar fashion. Nicolas Pethov, head of the agrarian party and a member of the opposition, was accused of having fostered a military coup d'état. He was indicted, condemned on August 16, 1947 and died by hanging on September 23.

The peasant party, accused of fascism, had been dissolved on August 26. On November 22, the administration of the country was reorganized on the Soviet model. On December 11, 1947, Dinvetrov formed a predominantly communist cabinet.

In Rumania, following an election whose results the Anglo-Saxons did not recognize, members of the opposition were accused of having tried to overturn the democratic system. The peasant party was dissolved on October 10, 1947 and its leader, Dr. Manier, was sentenced to life imprisonment on October 29.

● (2:20 p.m.)

Mrs. Anna Pauker, who had prepared herself for the job in Moscow during the war, succeeded Mr. Tataresco, and King Michael had to resign on January 1, 1948.

In Poland, peasant party leader Mikolayczyk, had to resign because of threats to his life. He had to leave his country in November 1947. The communists then took over completely.

In Czechoslovakia the government in Prague which had welcomed the Marshall plan had to change its mind and reconsider its decision after Mr. Gottwald and Mr. Masaryk made an hurried trip to Moscow in July 1947. By intrigues and false accusations they forced Benes to resign in order to set up a communist regime.

Thus, in less than a year, Moscow had managed to bring into subjection the governments of Budapest, Bucharest, Sofia, Warsaw and Prague. The communist party had absolute or almost absolute power in all those capitals where opposition had been swept away. All the Kremlin had to do was to co-ordinate on the international level the action of these governments and to set up a satellite block under Moscow's rule.

Besides, strong pressures were exerted directly and indirectly by the Soviet Union in several other parts of the world, especially in Northern Iran, in Turkey, in Greece, where guerilla warfare which had started in 1944 turned out in 1946 to be a genuine war in which the rebels were getting their reinforcements from bases located in neighbouring communist states, in Asia where the Soviet Union greatly increased its influence in 1945 with the occupation of the greater part of Manchuria and North Korea.

Furthermore, communist agitation was felt in the whole of South-East Asia, in Indochina, in Malaysia, in Burma and in the Philippines where strikes and disorder were stirred up to the point of actual guerilla warfare. Everywhere the local communist parties under orders from Moscow, managed to strengthen Soviet policies by means of well-organized propaganda and steady opposition to any western positions which opposed Soviet