

conomic connections with the United States as protecting us. Yet, we see the possibility of the next world conflagration if, God forbid, it should happen, being between the United States and the U.S.S.R. and we know that we will have to look to our immediate neighbour for our defence.

A comment that is often made, and I do not think it is always an informed comment, is that no one knows how effective these conferences of parliamentarians are or what they accomplish. Are they just jaunts? Are they just visits? Are they just talk-fests?

Honourable senators, I think anyone who has been at recent conferences will agree with me that the trend is away from that. I do not know what the situation was years ago, but I do know that I have noticed the trend away from the social activity, the talk-fest, towards a determination to reach some conclusions. There is no better example of that than the agenda of this recent Inter-Parliamentary Union meeting.

As Senator Dessureault summarized the agenda in our *Hansard* of December 10 last, perhaps I might draw attention to the four main points, and on all of these there were very full resolutions passed by the Union.

The first deals with the inadmissibility of intervention in the domestic affairs of other states. We are told that when the IPU endorsed that resolution the parliamentary representatives of the Warsaw Pact countries walked out. I would like to hear more about that. I would like to learn whether they stayed out, and whether in the social contacts afterwards they explained why they had walked out. Was it on instructions from their governments? Had they any regrets?

I hope that every one of such Inter-Parliamentary conferences will pass similar resolutions, and if there happens to be present members of those or other countries who have been guilty of raw aggression, that they will walk out. If enough parliamentarians walk out of these conferences, they will eventually get the message back to their governments that parliamentarians all over the world find this kind of action detestable.

I think the converse of that is that one might hope our own delegations of parliamentarians coming back will be given a much greater opportunity to get the message through to our governments. I am sure the honourable Leader of the Government knows that I am not speaking of any particular government; this is a situation that has gone on

for some time. I see no mechanism for parliamentarians reporting back to our governments the views and opinions of other parliamentarians around the world on Canadian policy.

Hon. Mr. Martin: Might I suggest, by way of a question: Does the honourable gentleman not think that the new Committee on Foreign Affairs might be one of the vehicles by which this could be done?

Hon. Mr. Grosart: I would entirely agree with the Leader of the Government on that. I was very interested to hear him give a broad outline of the program that he has in mind for the Foreign Affairs Committee. I would hope, of course, that the elements of that program would not be a mere extension of what we have been doing in the past. I am one of those who believe that in this area of foreign affairs a second chamber—I prefer that expression to “upper chamber”—has a special adequacy in dealing with foreign affairs. In this second chamber, generally speaking, we have the time, the detachment, and, as I have indicated and it is abundantly clear, the experience and the expertise. We also have that permanence of appointment, which is not necessarily a national asset in itself but which could and, I think, should be made a national asset. We all know the steps we would like to see taken in that regard, and I may have something more to say about that in a moment or two.

To revert to the point I was making, I hope that there will be recognition of the fact that these parliamentarians' conferences are not just some relic of the past. The interesting fact is that in the last year there have been three major expansions of this concept.

The first has been the establishment of—if honourable senators will excuse my French, because there is not an English version of the title—l'association internationale des parlementaires de la langue française. This is the organization of French-speaking parliamentarians which held its first meeting last year. Canada has taken a prominent part in that and will again be represented, I understand, at the next meeting, in the fall, in Tunisia.

Secondly, as honourable senators know, there has now been set up for the first time an Inter-Parliamentary Relations Branch, a part of the operation of the Offices of the Speakers. Mr. Ian Imrie is head of the