

*External Affairs*

He thought that in his lifetime a considerable portion of the European area outside of Russia would become communist, and it was at that time that he rendered assistance to the people in China who formed the communist party of that country. The communist party in China still contains many of the original members. I am sure there must be 20 or 25 of the top brass in the communist party in China who learned their communism from Lenin or his immediate successor and of course a great many of them were sent to Paris to study communism in France. Chou En-Lai was one of those.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. I am sorry to interrupt the minister but I must inform him that his time has expired.

**Hon. Paul Martin (Essex East):** Mr. Speaker, I trust that the hon. member for St. John's West (Mr. Browne), Minister without Portfolio, will not expect me to comment on the speech he has just delivered. However I should observe, as the first speaker after him, that I was disturbed by his response to the intervention made by the hon. member for Kootenay West (Mr. Herridge) who said, while the hon. gentleman was speaking, "Better to talk than to fight." The minister replied: "I don't know about that". I should have thought that by this time—

**Mr. Browne (St. John's West):** Mr. Speaker, may I make an observation? I do not think I heard what the hon. member for Kootenay West said. I did not realize what he had said until afterwards and it certainly was not my idea that it was better to fight than to talk.

**Mr. Martin (Essex East):** I was about to observe that it would be regrettable if any hon. member today, in the face of the tragic events that pursue us, took the view that we should resolve our disputes with other countries not by pacific means but by the use of force. The correction that the hon. gentleman has made is, of course, fully accepted.

The Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Smith) covered a wide front today. I thought I would deal tonight with one phase of the situation in the Middle East. Before doing that, I should observe that we might have taken advantage of this debate today to hear accounts of the experiences of some members of the government who in the course of their duties have visited foreign lands since the last session. The Minister of Finance (Mr. Fleming) made an extensive visit to the Far East and this might have been an appropriate occasion to hear about the conference which he attended and likewise some of the other experiences which were his during that trip. The Prime Minister

(Mr. Diefenbaker), of course, could not be in the house after the orders of the day because of an indisposition but, as the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Pearson) said, we will look forward to a report from him on the tour he made not only to the Far East but to Europe as well, a report which at the beginning of the session he intimated would be given at the first opportunity when there was a discussion of international affairs.

Last August I decided, as some hon. members will remember, to make a private, personal trip to the Middle East to formulate some impressions and to gather information about a situation which at that time occupied our attention in the house, later in the United Nations, and which for some time after the month of September continued to occupy the attention of those who are interested in the easing of international tension in the peaceful relations of states.

**Mr. Monteith (Perth):** Did the hon. member travel as the hon. member for Essex East or as minister of national health and welfare? There was a report came back about that.

**Mr. Martin (Essex East):** I could not very well travel as minister of national health and welfare.

**Mr. Monteith (Perth):** There was a report came back.

**Mr. Martin (Essex East):** There are many reports. I hope by hon. friend will take advantage of the opportunity to improve his mind by engaging in some travel. In commenting on the Middle East today the Secretary of State for External Affairs made a number of observations. He said first of all that we can now look at the situation in that sector with cautious satisfaction. He also observed that on the Arab-Israeli front some unrest prevails, particularly on the Israeli-Syrian border. He further observed that we must continue to support the work of the United Nations in that area as an effective agency for providing peace and international collaboration.

Then he gave what I thought was a satisfactory account of the neutralist policy and neutralist tendency of certain countries in the area. I must say that I thought his statement with regard to the Middle East was one with which I would generally concur.

I went to the Middle East at a time when there was civil strife in Lebanon, shortly before the revolution in Iraq which had been marked in its initial stages by the assassinations of King Faisal and his prime minister, Nuri es-Said, events which had caused the government of the United States to dispatch marines to the shores of the Mediterranean at Beirut in Lebanon and Her