

Supply—External Affairs

a year, with export credits, loans and everything else thrown in, which would be about the 1 per cent target of national income or gross national product, the standard adopted internationally many years ago. The present government—I am glad the Secretary of State for External Affairs is here—proceed to do good but they do it at their usual snail-like pace. They propose to reach this target of 1 per cent some time in the 1970's. Why not now? The need is now. A relatively small contribution from the anticipated increase in Canada's wealth would enable this to be done without any serious sacrifice on the part of the Canadian people. Indeed, a good case for this increase could be made out on purely material grounds. The moneys are largely spent in Canada. The development of countries with which Canada has close ties, such as the Caribbean, creates a market for Canadian goods which is essential to our long-term prosperity.

I ask the Secretary of State for External Affairs: Who is stopping us? We are sometimes told it is public opinion. I do not believe this is true. What is stopping us is the timidity and half-heartedness of the Canadian government. I must say, in all fairness, that this attitude is shared with other western governments. This timidity and half-heartedness is responsible for the failure to deal adequately with this problem. It has produced what Mr. Reid, in the article I mentioned, described as "short-sighted and ignoble policies of foreign aid." Dr. Gunnar Myrdal, the noted Swedish economist, when speaking at Expo the other day said:

Wars and war preparations represent the most important elements of clear and dangerous insanity in international relations. The rich western and European communist countries taken together, are probably spending as much on wars and war preparations as the sum total of national incomes in all of the much more populous underdeveloped countries.

The description by Dr. Myrdal, who is a pretty sober observer of the world, of "insane" would not be justified if someone could indicate that these competitive war expenditures produce security. They produce precisely the opposite. I wonder how much of the present conflict in the Near East and how many of the casualties in that conflict have been caused by the fact that all the nations of the world, including Canada, have seen fit to export weapons of destruction, armaments, on a substantial scale to these countries. I do not think it is an exaggeration for Dr. Myrdal to refer to this situation as one that shows we are not really sane.

In the light of the crisis through which we have gone in the last few days and through which we are still going, I ask: Can we not make progress toward a global settlement? This global settlement, I suggest, would do the following things:

(a) achieve a lasting settlement in the Near East. I have tried to say what I think is necessary for this.

(b) strengthen the United Nations, and particularly its peace keeping activities.

(c) achieve a non-proliferation treaty which would help to prevent instability turning into nuclear disaster; and

(d) divert the vast sums spent on war expenditures to the constructive task of ending poverty throughout the world.

We know that Canada is not a very powerful nation, but it is not an insignificant nation either. Its contribution and leadership in the fields I have mentioned would do much to strengthen the defences of world civilization and provide a secure future for our children and grandchildren.

Hon. Paul Martin (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Chairman, this discussion today was opened, appropriately by the Prime Minister because of his historic association with the problems of the Middle East and particularly because of the contributions he made to the establishment of the United Nations emergency force. There are a number of important foreign policy considerations which I wish to discuss at this time. I hope to do so objectively and in a non-partisan way, in spite of the provocation which I found in the speech of my right hon. friend, the Leader of the Opposition.

The involvement of the United Nations in the situation in the Middle East and the implications of this crisis for the world are such that we must all recognize how vital is a solution to the problems of that disturbed area. The tragic developments in the Middle East of the past three weeks have engrossed us all. They have dominated the international scene and they have been of concern to peoples everywhere. The interlude of violence is now, I believe, hopefully, coming to an end with the announcement by the Secretary General this afternoon of the acceptance by the U.A.R. of the cease fire resolution of the security council. The cease fire appeals issued by the security council on June 6 and 7 have begun to take effect even though there is,