

*Supply—External Affairs*

I think the changes of the moment have meant a certain slackening in tension which I for one welcome. I would refuse to make any forecast as to the future because it is as murky and obscure to me as it is to any other member. Nevertheless, I still retain a fairly healthy degree of scepticism as to the future plans of the Soviet union.

The member for Prince Albert suggested that Khrushchev was perhaps being impaled on the horns of a dilemma. I think that gentleman is much too shrewd an operator to be so impaled. In the near future the obvious tactics of the Soviet union are going to urge the underprivileged people to fight for their own freedom, while refusing that very freedom to the people who are within the power of the Soviet union. Nevertheless, changes are taking place and the changes unhappily are not all to our benefit. Only a year ago almost to the week there was a meeting in Geneva, a meeting at the summit, a very highly touted meeting, which received publicity the world over, at which the leaders of some of the great nations attended. I think that if one were to draw or plot a graph of the progress of the plans of the Soviet union in the past year that graph would slope upward, and if we were to draw a graph of the progress of the west in the past year it would go down. The reason for that unhappily is the lamentable lack of leadership which the west has been showing, and none of us is guiltless. That was proved perhaps most cruelly by Walter Lippman, when he said in an article some months ago that the leadership of the west is in the hands of preoccupied and harried men in London, of weak and distracted men in Paris, of a very old man in Bonn and a sick man in Washington. That being so, there is none of that moral and political leadership which I am sure many of us in this house would like to see.

The soviets are battling us in the field of ideas and at the moment they prevail and we do not understand why. It is difficult to understand, from our vantage point, because we know that when they speak to the underprivileged people of the world about the horrors of colonialism the Soviet union itself is the greatest colonial power in the world and that within its own confines it has taken masses of people into slavery in Siberia.

The Soviet union talks of peace, yet only a few months ago it armed Egypt in such a way that Egypt has become a dire threat to peace. The Soviet union wants to ban the atom bomb, yet it does nothing effective, and oddly enough it is selling this curious propaganda to the peoples of the world. It is time we in the west called the bluff of the

Soviet union. It means we have to act rather differently from what we have in the past.

Certainly, there are changes taking place in the Soviet union. The heady wine of freedom is fermenting. We see it in Poland, though it is not in the Soviet union but is a satellite. We see it amongst the workers of Poznan and, if we were doing our job intelligently, we would be showing the peoples of the world just what happens to the workers of any country who rebel against the power of the Soviet union. That desire for freedom is showing itself in Czechoslovakia today, in Hungary and within the Soviet union itself in the Ukraine. There is a country which is much older than Russia, a country which has a greater history in many ways than Russia, a country which has often been submerged throughout the course of history and which yet has always survived and emerged because of the desire of its people for freedom, a desire which we see expressed in our own country, for I disagree with the minister that the Slav is essentially one who yields to autocracy. We have many people of Slav descent in our country who are amongst the strongest fighters for freedom. If that is so here, then it is so also in the people in the land from whose loins they sprang.

We have, then, to give, as was suggested by the hon. member for Prince Albert, encouragement to those people. No one will suggest for a moment that we go to war to liberate them. That is not in the minds of anybody, but there is deep-seated within the human mind and the human soul this hope and desire for freedom, and somehow we have to convey to them our intention that eventually they are going to be free, as we know freedom.

I will admit the obvious fact that in the world of power politics today one cannot negotiate from weakness; but we have, in my judgment, placed far too much emphasis on arms and defence pacts, with the result that we are not able to sell the many worthwhile beliefs which we accept. Today there is a different atmosphere and it has us baffled. We knew how to deal with the blustering and belligerent Stalin. We do not know how to deal with the blandishments and lures of Khrushchev. We have not yet adjusted to the new system which apparently is prevailing.

As I said, we do not know how long this is going to last. We know now that every crime we have laid at the doors of the Kremlin has been amply confirmed; but I suspect the error we are still making is that which we have continued to make. We are fighting international communism on the