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WEEK'S EVENTS IN REVIEW

MR. PEARSON'S SPEECH: The Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Pearson, on Friday, February 4, in the House of Commons, spoke on the international situation. While the position, he said, still gave cause for much anxiety it should be considered without panic, but without illusions. There was no doubt that fear had gripped the world again, "fear arising primarily out of the extension of the brutal domination of revolutionary communism, based on the massive and expanding militarism of totalitarian Russia."

The Minister proceeded as follows:

"As yet, though there is still no ground for undue optimism, there has been, I think it is safe to say, an easing of the tension in recent months. Hon. members, and in fact the people throughout this country will be asking themselves the question, why is that? I suggest, Mr. Speaker, that it is certainly not due to the so-called peace overtures which have recently been made in Moscow, in Rome and in Paris, by communist leaders. To my mind it would, of course, be folly and even worse to reject or discourage any genuine move toward a peaceful solution of the problems that divide the world today between the democratic west and the totalitarian east.

"In this connection the house, and I am sure the country, will have read with much

interest the answers given recently by the head of the Soviet Government to certain questions asked him by a United States newspaper correspondent. I suggest that, we should be careful, in our reaction to these answers, not to confuse words with deeds or to be lured by them into wishful thinking. There is no doubt that much of the icy dread and fear in the world today would tend to melt away under the warm radiance of Mr. Stalin's smile if he could only hold it, and if it were the smile of genuine friendship. But Mr. Stalin himself has said that 'there is no logic stronger than the logic of facts.' That is true, and I think it can be applied to statements which come from Moscow or indeed from any other capitals. The leader of the Soviet Government also once said to a journalist: 'The export of revolution?-- that is nonsense.'

"But to his own people he has said in the Soviet Bible, which is called Problems of Leninism: 'The goal is to consolidate the dictatorship of the proletariat in one country, using it as a base for the overthrow of imperialism (that is noncommunism) in all countries.'

"The people of Czechoslovakia know which of the above statements is true. The leader of Russia and his followers in the various countries may now be willing to issue conciliatory