

*The Address—Mr. Paul*

political thinking, heads of states met in New York in record numbers to discuss the most varied subjects, principally the matter involving the Secretary General of the United Nations, Mr. Dag Hammarskjold, whom the communist countries were blaming, among other things, for his attitude concerning the Congo crisis.

The eyes of the world were on New York. World peace was once again undergoing a test. The peace promised to men of good will by the child in the manger was tottering dangerously, because of the ill will of a few irresponsible leaders bent on using the general assembly as a means of impressing smaller powers, particularly the new members of the United Nations.

The leaders of the nations, some of them level-headed, calm, and sincere, others stupid, quarrelsome and hypocrites who were trying by their speeches to draw attention upon themselves in the press, on radio and television, were divided in two blocks: the democratic the communist countries. The latter were led by none other than Mr. Nikita Khrushchev who, at times, acted like a circus ringmaster. Feelings were running high and on certain days, the tumult drowned the voices of the speakers; we all had the impression that the assembly was to be a complete failure. From the very first days, Mr. Khrushchev took the floor to cast aspersions on the secretary of the United Nations general assembly, Mr. Dag Hammarskjold, to advocate his own disarmament policy, to attack the policy of the democratic countries headed by England and the United States, to criticize the colonialism of the western countries and to put forward administrative changes for future meetings of the United Nations.

Following Mr. Khrushchev's speech, diplomatic victory seemed in the offing for him. The democracies hesitated; a reply was imperative; the transcendent personality of a leader alone could revive any hope among free nations.

(Text):

Who was the man who through his energy, his spirit, his power of reasoning and his personality could refloat the democratic vessel which seemed to be sinking? The choice was made and success was ensured, for the right hon. Prime Minister of Canada (Mr. Diefenbaker) was elected for this purpose. The interest of Canadians which had been aroused for the past few days by the press, radio and television, suggested even to housewives in the most humble dwelling that they should tune in and absorb the unforgettable

[Mr. Paul.]

words which the Prime Minister of Canada was to pronounce on September 26, 1960.

How did our Prime Minister conceive the role which the United Nations was to play? Let us leave the answer to him, for when replying to Mr. Khrushchev regarding the question of colonialism this is what he said:

This meeting symbolizes the bringing together of the cultures and philosophies of all races. It is our responsibility to ensure that out of this meeting shall come a testament to the capacity of rational men to achieve rational relations, to bring about the attainment of peace and to practise brotherhood and the raising of standards everywhere in the world. To the new members I say this. As one coming from Canada, I say that the United Nations constitutes the greatest hope for the middle and small powers, for the new and weaker states; indeed, for all the nations of mankind of every social and political system.

Answering Mr. Khrushchev on the question of colonialism preached by the latter, the right hon. Prime Minister said, and I quote:

There are few here that can speak with the authority of Canada on the subject of colonialism, for Canada was once a colony of both France and the United Kingdom. We were the first country which evolved over a hundred years ago by constitutional processes from colonial status to independence without severing the family connection.

There can be a double standard in international affairs. I ask the chairman of the council of ministers of the U.S.S.R. to give to those nations under his domination the right of free elections—to give them the opportunity to determine the kind of government they want under genuinely free conditions.

What was the program the right hon. Prime Minister offered for maintaining world peace? Let me quote another passage of his speech:

I ask for a return immediately to the path of negotiation. It is the only course that the great powers should follow. It is incumbent on this United Nations general assembly to press for the resumption of negotiations, particularly regarding those main issues which divide the U.S.S.R. and those associated with it from the western powers.

In a world passing through two great human experiences—the thrust of technology and the thrust of political and social change—new perspectives have been given for a better life.

We hear voices that speak of victories for propaganda. We are not here in this assembly to win wars of propaganda. We are here to win victories for peace. If I understand correctly the thinking of the average man and woman today throughout the world, they have had enough of propaganda, of confusion and fears and doubts. They are asking us for the truth. We are not mustered here under the direction and domination of any nation. We are mustered not for any race or creed or ideology. We are here for the hosts of humanity everywhere in the world. Peoples and nations are waiting upon us.

No sooner had the Prime Minister finished that speech than the democracies regained their self-confidence and led those nations which had recently been admitted to the general assembly of the United Nations to