

External Affairs

there is no use trying to maintain world peace when two thirds of the world population—and this may reach three fourths before long—are in distress and poverty.

But Canada has not shirked its obligations and its responsibilities, since it has taken part as far as possible in the financial aid program in favour of underdeveloped countries.

However, financial assistance is clearly inadequate, and even if we have considered the problem from that point of view, we should keep on doing everything that is humanly possible to prove that we are interested in spiritual values.

Mr. Speaker, may I call it six o'clock.

(Text):

At six o'clock the house took recess.

AFTER RECESS

The house resumed at 8 p.m.

(Translation):

Mr. Lafreniere: Mr. Speaker, when the house adjourned this afternoon, I was dealing with the problem of the poverty and misery which are the lot of over two thirds of the world's population, and I was saying that Canada, in this matter, was honourably meeting its responsibilities and commitments with respect of financial help given to underdeveloped countries. Yet, capital assistance is clearly insufficient and, even if that angle has been considered, we should continue to resort to any humanly possible means of showing that we are interested in spiritual values.

Funds expended for the benefit of underdeveloped countries should largely be used to promote education among these people.

If there are countries in the world that should preach in favour of higher moral standards, Canada is certainly one of the first. Indeed, the religions practised by the majority of Canadians, while they are different, are based on the highest Christian principles, which emphasize moral values and respect for the dignity of the human person. That matter was of great concern to the economic committee on which I served as rapporteur at the NATO convention held in London in June 1959.

As a matter of fact, none of these ideas is new. The Prime Minister of Canada spoke to the same effect in a speech he

[Mr. Lafreniere.]

made at the University of Toronto on January 12, 1959, where he clearly stated the facts, namely that since the last war, Canada has paid \$4½ billion for the requirements of that assistance. And yet, during his recent trip to Asia, the Prime Minister realized that some people had some doubts about the reasons for this humanitarian action by the donating countries. Here is what the Prime Minister said on this occasion:

This lesson proves that material assistance alone cannot convince uncommitted countries of our sincerity, nor win their adhesion to freedom in the ideological war.

I would be remiss, Mr. Speaker, if I failed to quote an extract from this speech that all Canadians should know.

According to Prime Minister Diefenbaker, no country with so small a population has as much responsibility in the world as Canada. It is a respected country because it has no territorial ambition, because of its position between the United States and Russia and because of its rank, the fourth among trading nations. Canada's prospects for the future depend on good understanding in the world. Canada must be a world spiritual power in keeping with its material wealth.

Canada must deliver "its message to mankind". It has proved that people of different races can live together; it is respected because it does not practise discrimination; and it has recognized the necessity of applying Christian principles internationally.

Before resuming my seat, Mr. Speaker, I should like to commend the Canadian government for its splendid success at the last session of the United Nations when, after two months of negotiations, it achieved unanimity on its resolution concerning the world study of radiation and nuclear fall-out.

This success must be credited largely to the Secretary of State for External Affairs and to his parliamentary secretary, a tireless and efficient worker, the hon. member for Oxford (Mr. Nesbitt).

I must point out that, at the United Nations the new minister for external affairs has in record time gained from representatives of various countries the same affection and respect he enjoys here at home. In spite of differences of opinion on certain important matters, he was able to stay on the closest and friendliest terms with France and, as he pointed out last Wednesday in his remarks, Canada was firm and consistent enough to vote for the resolution urging France to refrain from making nuclear tests. On that occasion, the Canadian representative made a point of emphasizing that, in spite of the cultural bonds, the blood ties and the friendly