

*External Affairs*

attack, if any attempt is made by red China to take them by force. However, I think it is clear the United States feels that continued nationalist possession of the islands is important to the maintenance of morale of the nationalist Chinese troops. From what Mr. Dulles said while he was in Ottawa, and in recent speeches, one would judge that the United States government is giving most careful and earnest thought to what should be done about Matsu and Quemoy. If they think they are of special strategic importance and of outstanding value from the point of view of morale, then it may be that the United States will be prepared to fight for them if red China attempts to take them by force. It appears that the Americans are using the utmost effort in dealing with this delicate situation, and I think they are giving evidence that they will use every effort to avoid military conflict. I sincerely hope they will. But of one thing we can be sure, and that is if there is any show of weakness on the part of the United States, the reds will be alert to that weakness and will certainly make a move to take the islands by force.

What about Canada's position? What should we do in this situation? Well, it has been brought out here this afternoon—and the minister has made it quite clear in other speeches he has made recently—that Canada is not committed any more than to take whatever action may be decided upon by the United Nations itself. If the United Nations decides to take some action, then I suppose we would be committed to do what we can. The United States seems to be the only power committed to the defence of Formosa and the Pescadores. I think it our duty of course to remain calm and level-headed, to make our views known to the United States, whatever we may think, and to issue a word of counsel and caution when we feel that these things are necessary, but all with a view to being helpful to the United States in the dreadful responsibility that she has undertaken alone in the leadership of the nations of the free world.

It would be a mistake for us to engage in bitter criticism, because that would simply give comfort to the enemy, destroy the unity of the western allies and weaken the position of the United States. I join the minister in what he said this afternoon in expressing gratification that the final decision about Quemoy and Matsu rests on a man of vision, honesty and ability, a man of President Eisenhower's stature. In the final analysis, that decision must be a military one. I do not see that it can be anything else. We think that Canada should always keep clearly

[Mr. Low.]

in focus the rights and wrongs of these international problems, and should never allow them to be obscured by fear or prejudice. We should try to assess the situation against the background of communist global strategy, but I think we have to take the position on them that will be best calculated to prevent the consummation of communist plans for world domination. If we take that position it possibly will be right.

We believe that the United States should be given moral support in their determination to prevent Formosa and the Pescadores from falling into the hands of red China, not because we feel any desire at all to protect Chiang Kai-shek and his government but because of the importance of Formosa for the defence of the free people of southeastern Asia, and even of America. We believe that when the communists have given evidence, indisputable evidence by deeds and not by mere words, that they are really anxious to establish peace in the world and they are prepared to discontinue their aggression, then the people of Formosa should be given the right to determine their own future.

We are firm believers in the principle of self-determination, and we are definitely opposed to using any country and its people as pawns in the game of international power politics. We believe that there has been too much of that sort of thing in times past. Too much human suffering has resulted. We think that to sacrifice the freedom of millions of freedom-loving Formosans to appease the communists would be grossly inhuman as well as criminal, and furthermore it would be useless and would violate a sacred trust. We believe that the Canadian people should resist the propaganda of the communists and their sympathizers on the Formosan question, as on all others, because we are convinced that they are trying to delude us and lull us into a sense of false security.

We find ourselves in fairly full agreement with the United States' Far Eastern policy as revealed in the recent speeches by Mr. Dulles and President Eisenhower, as well as by actions recently taken by congress. It is quite refreshing and reassuring to see the United States coming into a realistic policy at last. If the United States had followed in the post-war years a policy similar to their present one, the Korea fiasco would never have happened and a great many of the troubles now being faced in Indo-China and in other parts of southeastern Asia would not be vexing the people there.

Under the leadership of men of undoubted loyalty and vision and spiritual greatness, the United States appears to be developing today