

important after 1951. If, therefore, the leaders of international communism have convinced themselves that war with the West must come at some time, they may consider that their best opportunity will be in the months ahead. Because of this - and because of recent events in North Korea - the danger of a major war in the immediate future has, I think, increased. Such a war could result either through deliberate armed aggressive action on the part of the Soviet Union, or its satellites, or through a willingness on their part to take increased risks in spite of the knowledge that a major war might result.

The question whether the risk of a major war will diminish after, say, the end of 1951, depends, of course, in large part on whether the Western world has been able to increase its defences and ensure the necessary unity of action; whether we can strengthen - as we are trying to do - the United Nations as an agency for preserving peace, for settling disputes and in the last analysis for organizing collective force against an aggressor. The free democracies are now taking steps to these ends at Lake Success and within the North Atlantic Organization. The crisis of the last few weeks in Korea has shown, with even greater clarity than before, the necessity for doing this and for doing it quickly and effectively.

The democratic world is - tragically but inescapably - compelled to devote an increasing proportion of its resources to the task of rearmament. This rearmament is essential and must be given priority for the time being over other objectives, but by itself, it will not be enough. We must also preserve and increase our economic and social strength. We must also take the steps necessary to rally to our side the peoples of Asia. We must give political and moral leadership of a kind which will attract and hold the support of the wavering powers, especially in Asia. Otherwise the Soviet Union may be able to extend by non-military means, by the pull of its sham but alluring offers of bread with freedom, its domination over large parts of the under-privileged, under-developed world with its masses of millions.

The forces of communist aggression in Asia have in the past successfully allied themselves with the forces of national liberation and social reform. The task of the Western democratic powers is to assist the democratic governments in those areas to break that unnatural alliance. For this purpose, it is essential that the Western countries help the Asian democratic countries in their plans for economic development, in order to relieve the distress and poverty there, on which international communism feeds. Within the measure of its resources Canada should, I think, do its part to help in this great effort to promote human welfare and hence to ensure peace.

There is some discussion going on at present whether the atom bomb should or should not be used against the aggressors in Korea. One consideration in this matter - and an important one - must be the effect of such use on the relations of the Western world with Asia. The military, and others, may argue that the atomic bomb is just another weapon. But, in the minds of ordinary people