

Supply—External Affairs

these comparisons, but it does seem to me that for the good of these people, for the peace of the world and for our own good we could do a lot more yet in the way of technical assistance and economic aid generally.

The minister knows he has our whole-hearted support in everything that is being done along this line. I hope he will agree with me that there is room yet for a great deal more that we could do, and that he will join with us in an appeal to our people generally to give support to all possible aid of this kind. Before I conclude, I may say that I was interested in the response the Secretary of State made to a question of mine which was on the order paper a few days ago. I asked for certain correspondence regarding Canadian aid to Korean relief. I thought there might be a dozen letters or a few more than that that would meet the terms of my motion. The minister said there were so many it would be a heavy task to copy them all. I thought that was quite significant, if there were that many groups and organizations in this country writing to the government urging that something be done by way of aid to Korean relief with Canadian wheat and other products. This suggests to me that the will of the Canadian people is clearly on the right side. They believe that along with whatever else we are doing we can make a real contribution to the peace of the world and to the benefit of mankind by doing all we can in this field of economic aid.

Mr. Nicholson: Before the item carries, I have one suggestion to make. I have just been reading the *New York Times* for Monday, May 24. There are two interesting pages telling about the sharing of technical knowledge in transforming the older sectors of the world. We have the figures showing what the United States expenditures are as compared with the United Nations expenditures. I would suggest that the minister use his good offices to try to get the United States to channel more of their expenditures through the United Nations. The comparable figures are as follows:

Area	Contributions in Millions	
	U.N.	United States
Asian Pacific	12	120
Middle East	8	77
Africa	1	6
Latin America	9	45
Europe	3	20

In view of the fact that the United Nations is a new organization, I believe it is important that its good name should be protected throughout the various parts of the world. I am sure that the minister, in the light of

[Mr. Knowles.]

the post he has held, could use his influence to try to get our neighbour to the south to increase their contributions to the United Nations so the United Nations specialized agencies might do more effective work.

Mr. Diefenbaker: I wonder whether the minister would give his considered opinion concerning assistance in the nature of surplus wheat and the like being granted to the Colombo plan. We hear it said so frequently, and I am in general agreement with it, that assistance of this kind is a bulwark against communism and that the main weapon of communism in Asia today is hunger. We have also read on one occasion where Mr. Hoffman said that if \$400 million or \$500 million in economic assistance had been given to China during the years 1944, 1945 and 1946, China might well not have fallen victim to aggressive communism. I should like the minister to clarify that situation.

One hears it argued that assistance of this kind by way of grants of surplus wheat and the like to make up the \$25 million or a portion of it would not be acceptable to the eastern nations. Will the minister elucidate this, because I think it is the cause of a great deal of misunderstanding, and clarification would go a long way to meeting the requests of people in general.

Mr. Pearson: Mr. Chairman, in the first place I would like to echo what has already been said by the last three members who have spoken about the value of economic and material assistance, and encouragement as well as support for the Asian countries in the struggle they are making for a better life, and in the struggle against communism about which we talk so much. And that is the positive side of this effort to which reference was made earlier in the discussion.

In replying to what my hon. friend from Prince Albert has said, I think we ought to view with some hesitation the giving of wheat and consumer products of that kind to these countries, except in cases of need, starvation and famine. It might be of far greater importance to them, and certainly it would cause less interference in the normal conduct of international trade, if when we were giving assistance of that kind we were to give it to them in the form of financial assistance, and let them spend it where they desire.

But in so far as the sending of wheat is concerned—and that is the commodity which was mentioned by the hon. member—the Colombo plan is a co-operative device for capital and technical assistance. It was understood when the plan was drawn up, and it