

Supply—External Affairs

countries. We may have some extremely interesting discussions on this question of colonialism during the coming session of the United Nations.

Finally, may I say this. The special material factor in the world today is the United Nations and in particular the session which commences later this month. I have no doubt that nuclear tests and the question of Berlin will be discussed during that session as well as many other issues with which I shall deal later on in this debate on the estimates. We must never forget that the United Nations is the best place we have in which to focus world opinion. The big question in my mind is this. Have the Soviet union gone so far that they are now prepared to ignore world opinion? Hitherto they have been playing up to other nations and trying to get support from other nations all over the world just as the United States has been doing. In their statement announcing that they were going to have nuclear tests, they actually said this was a great movement to help peace and they appealed to the uncommitted nations on that basis. How they could justify that argument I do not know either. However, if they have decided to ignore world opinion, we are in for extremely serious trouble; there can be no mistake about that fact. Let us hope that the leaders of that great country will be sensitive to world opinion, and that they will not simply ignore it and decide to go their own way seeking world domination.

In my opinion, Mr. Chairman, it is more than ever vital that Canada support the United Nations. This is no time for belittling that world organization. Some people say, "Oh, look at the mess it has made in the Congo". May I say this. Without the United Nations in the Congo there would have been blood feuds there and tribal wars, with thousands and thousands of people slaughtered during the whole of last year. This situation probably would have spread to adjoining areas. The situation would have been disastrous and might well have brought on a world war. The United Nations moved in without any precedent to follow, without trained personnel to do the job. They moved in or recruited a United Nations force and today there is a government in the Congo. They are having many troubles. They do not function as efficiently as does the Canadian government, I admit. Of course, it would be difficult for any other government to do that. However, they have a government and I believe that the problems are going to be worked out as a result of the leadership and the action of the United Nations. I am sure we are all proud that Canada has played such a significant part in the Congo and that we are one of the three European and North Atlantic countries serving on the Congo committee.

[Mr. Green.]

The United Nations today is the main hope of mankind. If it grows and succeeds, there will be world order. If it fails, there will be world destruction. That is the choice. I would hope that all Canadians will rally behind the United Nations at this time as they have never done before, although our people have always been supporters of that body.

In conclusion, I repeat what I said at the beginning. This House of Commons is meeting in a time of deep crisis. In times such as these a nation shows its calibre. Canada has done so on more than one occasion. We remember Canada in the first war. We remember Canada in the second war, the June day 21 years ago, when France was falling and when our then minister of defence was killed in a terrible air crash. It looked as though the United Kingdom would be invaded. I do not believe that in my lifetime there has ever been a darker day than that particular Monday. But no Canadian member of parliament had a thought in his head that there was going to be any surrender, that we were not going to face that situation and were going to win through. I know that Canada will show her calibre and her mettle in these present trying times.

The road ahead will be hard. Perhaps we have had enough of the soft life anyway. But the road ahead is certainly going to be hard and there will be tension for a long, long time. We might just as well face that fact. From Canadians courage will be required, both physical and moral, and sacrifice; and I believe above all, a return to our deep abiding fundamental faiths. If we face this challenge we will win through and the result may very well be to make our nation one of the leading nations of the world.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): Mr. Chairman, the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Green) stated that this is a time of crisis. The committee may be interested in knowing that exactly 22 years ago today parliament met to authorize a declaration of war. The statement made by the Secretary of State for External Affairs as to the critical situation, with the special knowledge that is his, is one which every hon. member of this house will examine with a sense of responsibility and concern. Nearly six months have elapsed since our last brief discussion on foreign affairs in this house. A measure of the urgency and seriousness of this situation is that we are debating external affairs on the first day back.

There have been a number of historically important international events during these months and, like the Secretary of State for External Affairs, while I propose to discuss mainly the immediate situation provoked by the recent decision of the Soviet union to