

*Crisis in Cuba*

let me say that two wrongs do not make a right. Let me emphasize, Mr. Speaker, that our party has always been opposed to unilateral action by any power. Therefore on that account we regret Soviet action in installing missile bases in Cuba, and we are very critical and unhappy about the fact that the United States government has decided upon a course of action which could easily lead to the most serious consequences without first bringing the whole matter of these missile bases to the attention of the United Nations.

Indeed, Mr. Speaker, it would seem to me from answers given by the Prime Minister to questions asked in this house that the government of our friendly and powerful neighbour decided on its course of action without consulting its nearest neighbour, Canada, or its NATO allies, but merely informed them of the action decided upon. I emphasize—and no one can properly contradict me—that this is a flagrant violation of the terms of the north Atlantic treaty. The President of the United States has ignored the consultative machinery of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. Its members were not asked for their opinion or advice; they were simply and baldly told what the United States intended to do, and to that course of action in the present world situation we take the strongest exception.

The Cuban situation has, of course, highlighted two or three present international problems. It has served to underline the correctness of our policy in opposing the spread of nuclear weapons, and therefore opposing nuclear weapons on our soil or in the hands of Canadians elsewhere. It is abundantly clear that the security of Cuba has been seriously harmed by the installation of nuclear bases, and that the threat to peace has been immensely increased. This is precisely the result which the New Democratic party has foreseen would inevitably follow the spread of nuclear weapons, and this is why we have consistently and strongly opposed any further dispersal of nuclear arms on the part of anyone. The installation of Soviet bases on Cuban soil has also focused attention on the fact that there are United States bases, and those of other nations, in many lands across the world, bases which are considered an ever present threat by others—and we can understand that—as the bases in Cuba are considered to be on this continent.

Now, Mr. Speaker, in all seriousness we urge that the crisis which has been created in recent days should be used by all nations, including the U.S.S.R. and the United States, to grapple with the whole problem of military bases, and particularly nuclear ones, and to

seek a policy of gradual dismantling of such bases everywhere as another step toward disarmament. The crisis in the Caribbean has served to take off the front pages of our newspapers the reports of fighting on the Indian-Chinese border, but we must recognize that that conflict is a part of the general unrest in the world today. It is another example of unilateral action by a nation, this time communist China, against a friendly neighbour. Unfortunately, however, Mr. Speaker, it is not possible to take the usual steps in the United Nations to condemn China's action in the Himalayas and demand a cessation of hostilities there, because the People's Republic of China has not been admitted to, and is not a member of, the United Nations. This is a matter which I think we have cause to regret at this time and will continue to regret under the developing circumstances of the world.

However, it is not enough merely to regret what has happened, from the point of view of the members of this party. We must find a way out; and my major purpose, Mr. Speaker, in rising on behalf of this group today is to make some positive proposals. There are some who say that the United Nations is helpless when conflicts occur between large powers. This party is not prepared to accept that, because there is no other road to peaceful settlement of international disputes except that provided by the machinery of the United Nations.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, we propose that Canada should immediately seek support for a resolution to be presented at the security council and, if necessary, later to the assembly of the United Nations, under the terms of the special resolution respecting uniting for peace, that would look for the removal of the immediate threat to peace in the Caribbean so that time might be bought for necessary negotiations—and time is the essence of this very dangerous situation.

We claim, Mr. Speaker, that such a resolution should propose that the U.S.S.R. and the U.S.A. act immediately and simultaneously to turn Soviet ships away from the direction of Cuba and to remove the United States blockade from the Caribbean. If that is accepted it might be necessary to have some ships from other countries police the shipping lanes to make certain that the two big powers carried out their undertakings.

Mr. Speaker, the members of this group, and I may say many members in this house, were very pleased to see in the *Gazette* this morning the request by U Thant asking the U.S. and the U.S.S.R. hold up on Cuba, making a proposal somewhat similar to the one we are making today to which we gave consideration some days ago. Such a United