

United Nations

affairs. Always we shall take the safe course of following the policy of "me-too-ism," giving no more and no less than others.

I suggest, Mr. Speaker, that Canada has the capacity to play a very much more inspiring and effective role in world affairs than it is now tied to by that attitude on the part of the government. In particular, Canada can and should be, in this problem of assistance to underdeveloped areas of the world, playing one of the leading roles in the world; because, while it is true we are not the wealthiest nation in the world, we are I believe per capita the second wealthiest nation in the world. Moreover, we sometimes pride ourselves on combining our material prosperity with a more sophisticated and advanced political philosophy than is to be found in perhaps other and wealthier countries. Here surely is the place where we should be employing that sophisticated political philosophy which tells us that the path to peace, the path to security, is in aiding the people of the underdeveloped countries to emerge into the modern world. I can think of no more inspiring field for young Canadians at this juncture in world history.

A few weeks ago the national film board showed in this building a picture of the work done by the United Nations Organization in precisely these areas. As I looked at that picture this thought occurred to me. While in the past we have tended to dangle before the eyes of young people the rather meretricious prizes of military glory, here we can hold in front of their eyes a really worthwhile prize for national and individual service.

I trust that the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Pearson) and his cabinet colleagues will be prepared to take a rather sharp look at the \$2,000 million we are going to spend on conventional defence measures, and an even sharper look at the million and a half that has been conditionally promised to be spent on technical assistance provided that it does not place Canada in an embarrassingly, conspicuously generous position.

Mr. A. W. Stuart (Charlotte): Mr. Speaker, this resolution would appear to be supported by members in all parts of the house and, of course, for very good reasons. I noted today that the hon. member for Greenwood (Mr. Macdonnell) made reference in his remarks to the fact that the knowledge we have of conditions in the countries of Asia and Europe has been to a great extent brought to us by missionaries and by the boys who were over there during the war. With that I agree. In my opinion our great weakness today in

that respect lies in the fact that too few Canadians have firsthand knowledge of conditions in many of these countries, and for a brief period I want to refer to the experience I had in 1948, after having been chosen a delegate to the parliamentary association, of visiting several countries in Europe and, a few days before we came home, of visiting Greece.

In the short time I was in that country I got a full realization of what total war means to a country, particularly in these days of modern warfare. I travelled throughout a great part of the country and gained firsthand knowledge of conditions. We flew up to the Albanian border. At that time the guerrilla warfare was being carried on, and I saw thousands and thousands of Greek people living in American army tents on practically nothing. Thousands of their children had been stolen and taken into the mountains. I began to realize the destruction of warfare, and just what people in countries so devastated had to contend with.

The destruction in Greece in a three and a half year period cost them about 400,000 homes in a country with a population of seven or eight million. This destruction was created by bombing, by explosives of all kinds, by fire and by pillage. Churches, schools, hospitals and all other dwellings were in the same category. There was no distinction at all. There were 1,770 Greek villages which were totally destroyed, and when I say "totally destroyed" it was estimated that they were 90 per cent destroyed.

Their hydraulic developments, which meant so much in the irrigation of the land—and they have very little land to irrigate—were totally destroyed. Their telephone and telegraph cables and long distance communications were completely destroyed. Nearly all the big harbours in that great country were a total loss. When the Germans invaded Greece they came with their planes and bombed and destroyed and created all the disturbance they could. Then after the allied nations invaded the country they had the job of trying to drive the Germans out of Greece, and Greek cities were bombed and destroyed not only by the Germans but also by the allied nations.

The railway rolling stock of the country deteriorated to such an extent that when the country was liberated there was not a single train moving. The bridges were practically all destroyed. The engines and cars had been stolen and taken to Bulgaria and other countries. Their railway stations had been destroyed. The machine shops in which they repaired their rolling stock had been destroyed, and when the war was over the supply of engines and rolling stock was completely nil. There was nothing left.