

*External Affairs*

1942. Has anyone here forgotten the epic story of those ships which, from Canada and other free nations, through the frozen waters of the Baltic carried supplies to Russia in their desperate hour of need, so that the Russian soil and the people of Russia for whom we had friendship—no matter what their governments might be—should not be enslaved by that nazi system against which we were fighting at that time? Who has forgotten the story of young men, frozen to their death, not for the defence of Canadian soil but so that Russia might be saved from nazi invasion? Who has forgotten the young men in those ships which were under attack by air, by submarine, by surface ships and which were carrying the aircraft, tanks, trucks, and all those things Russia needed so desperately at that time to survive the full weight of the German onslaught, which then extended from the Baltic right through to the Black sea?

No, unfortunately it seems necessary to remind some people of those facts, and to remind them that one of the reasons that our freedom is in danger today is that the nation which we befriended at that time betrayed us after the war was over, extended its power into nations whose freedom we thought we were protecting, and today has enslaved some 600 million human beings. Nor is this the beginning of Russian dreams of conquest; nor is this the beginning of Russian dreams of power. How did Russia come to occupy the largest territory inhabited by any single nation? By conquest following broken promises throughout the centuries.

Ask any Ukrainian in Canada about the history of his country, and he will tell you why it is that the Ukraine came under Russian slavery 300 years ago. He will tell you of a tragic blunder exactly 300 years ago this year, when the Ukrainian government of that day, seeking to strengthen its position in relation to other nations, entered into an agreement of friendship with Russia. As with other nations throughout history, Russia then flooded the Ukraine with its armed forces, established its position and except for a short period following the first world war, the Ukraine has been enslaved by Russia ever since. Under different forms of government that has been the picture. Today the only difference is that a more Godless dictatorship, a more brutal form of slavery, a more heartless despotism, is in power in Russia than at any time in the past.

I was moved to make these remarks, Mr. Speaker, because of the strong words that have found their way into the pages of *Hansard* from the mouth of the speaker who just sat down.

Now, may I deal with the subject that is before us? We are dealing with no academic problems; we are dealing with no argument in mere terms of likes or dislikes; we are discussing the very possibility of survival as a free people. It is nothing less. It is in that light, it is with that approach that we should examine the situation now before us.

When we hear suggestions that it might be wise to reduce our armaments, when we hear suggestions that we could well rely less on military defence, surely we need only to ask one question: Where is there any evidence available that Russia has reduced its armed strength by one aircraft, one ship, one tank, one submarine or one man or woman in uniform? Nowhere. On the contrary, the boast has been repeated over and over again that their military strength is increasing all the time.

It is in the face of that military strength, of that brutal reality, that we should consider the problems now before us. It has been a refreshing incident of the parliamentary experience of those of us who have been here for a few years that almost without exception we have found common ground in regard to the policies affecting our international relations. At the time that the Prime Minister (Mr. St. Laurent) left on his recent trip to visit so many countries around the world, he left with the genuine and wholehearted assurance of the members of this house that he could speak, and we hoped he would speak, on behalf of Canada and of all Canadians. We welcomed him back in the same spirit; we welcomed him back as the head of the government of Canada; we welcomed him back as the citizen chosen by the free vote of our people to speak with the highest measure of authority on behalf of Canadians outside of this country. Now it is necessary for us to examine the situation with which we are confronted.

Those of us who do not agree with any aspect of the position taken by this government, or any of us who are uncertain about the position of the government in regard to subjects in relation to which we have very strong and deep convictions, would be derelict in our duty if we did not speak with the utmost frankness in regard to those subjects. We had been led to believe that this motion to refer the estimates of the Department of External Affairs would provide an opportunity for a statement on external affairs that would clarify the position of this government not only for the benefit of hon. members but for the people of Canada.

I must confess great disappointment in the statements made yesterday by the government. The Secretary of State for External