

independence of others. States have every right to protect their own social and political and economic systems, but not at the expense of others whose choice is different from theirs. The principle of non-intervention is absolutely fundamental to international relations. If it is not observed, there can be no confidence between states and therefore no relations which can go beyond fear and mistrust.

When the invasion of Czechoslovakia occurred, Canada condemned it unequivocally. On the day of the invasion, I summoned the representatives of the invading powers and informed them clearly and in strong terms of our condemnation. We and like-minded fellow-members of the Security Council also requested that the Council be called into emergency session. On the following day, August 22, Canada and six other co-sponsors introduced a resolution which affirmed the sovereignty, political independence and territorial integrity of Czechoslovakia; condemned the interference of the U.S.S.R. and other members of the Warsaw Pact in the internal affairs of Czechoslovakia and called upon them to withdraw forthwith; and called upon members of the United Nations to exercise their diplomatic influence on the invading countries to bring about prompt implementation of the resolution.

When this resolution was vetoed by the U.S.S.R., Canada introduced a further resolution requesting the despatch of a special United Nations representative to Prague to seek the release and ensure the personal safety of the Czechoslovak leaders then under Soviet arrest. Happily, by the next day, we learned that the intentions of this initiative had been achieved, largely through the courage of the Czechoslovak leaders themselves.

The harsh reality remains, however, that hundreds of thousands of foreign troops, with their armour and aircraft, remain on Czechoslovak soil. In many ways the situation now is more complex and difficult than it was in the immediate aftermath of the invasion. We have no right, any more than has the Soviet Union, to interfere in the internal affairs of Czechoslovakia. It would certainly be no service to the Czechoslovak Government or people for us to behave in such a way as to lend substance to the empty Soviet claims that Czechoslovakia was acting as a tool of Western interests. Nor, indeed, would it be in the interests of the West or of Czechoslovakia to ignore another reality, which is that, ultimately, only the Czechoslovak people can work out their own destiny. I am confident, nevertheless, that their ordeal will end in their triumph.

What then can we do? Certainly we cannot behave as if nothing has happened. Certainly the realities I have mentioned demand a policy designed to meet them.

The first steps were obviously to provide on an emergency basis for those refugees from Czechoslovakia who sought to come to Canada. Circumstances so far have been different from those in Hungary in 1956, so that comparably large numbers of refugees have not left Czechoslovakia. Nevertheless, we took measures promptly as soon as it became clear that even a relatively small flow was about to begin, in accordance with the Government's declared policy that all those Czechoslovak refugees who want to come to Canada will be welcome.