

inform us, sometimes with the necessary reserve, of new catastrophes which do not seem to stop falling upon these miserable populations. Yet let us not forget that we also, as civilized human beings, must bear a heavy responsibility in our conscience and in our very hearts for these divided and scattered families and for these devastated homes. The great majority of all these people who suffer and die in continental Europe are not responsible for what happens to them, for the misery they must sustain, for the hunger and cold which is their lot; they are as innocent as we are of the crimes of certain nations or governments which have thrown them into such misery.

For this reason they are not interested in the reproach of those who governed them, who betrayed them and forced them into war; they are not interested in the punishment to be imposed upon those who have been sentenced as war criminals; they are not interested in all these conferences where words of revenge or punishment are so often pronounced; they are not interested in these international meetings where reference is constantly made to the great principles of justice and order; they are not interested in the draft treaties, border discussions or quarrels between governments; I would even say that they have no interest at present in the efforts of the united nations toward the establishment of peace itself. What they want, what they claim, is immediate help so that they will not die of cold or starvation. Let us not forget that these populations, left to their own initiative and not directed by any discipline, have become perfect prey for those subversive ideas which today have invaded the world; misery does not reason well. A generous and orderly system of help constitutes the best defence against such ideas as communism, for instance, which threatens today to destroy our way of life which we must continue to defend and to preserve.

It would be useless now to discuss the causes of some of the delays and the reason for the failure of our efforts to help the nations and populations in need. The example of Yugoslavia, whose government used practically all the UNRRA assistance it received to build and reinforce its army which today helps in no small way in keeping this nation enslaved, should serve again as a warning. It is absolutely essential that the economic and social council of the united nations organization, of which our country has been elected a member, should take complete charge of the administration and distribution of the funds to the

people in need. It is up to that council to work patiently for the reconstruction of the post-war world.

It is comforting to know that, in spite of all these shortcomings the world seems to succeed well enough in curing its numerous wounds. It would be unjust to declare that nothing has been done and that the united nations organization has produced nothing so far in the construction of this new post-war world. On the contrary, the efforts have been great and the results have been remarkable.

The whole world seems to gain hope because it believes that nations of good will are at work. This is how the Minister of National Health and Welfare (Mr. Martin) expressed himself in one of his recent speeches in Quebec:

(Translation):

We are on the road to the establishment of law and world cooperation; our journey is something of a forced march, along with unknown fellow-travellers, in the dark of night, through unexplored territories. Although aware of the dangers lurking along the way, we realize that we shall fall a prey to greater calamities by not going along. We have organized our group and we are already on our way.

(Text):

As far as our country is concerned, Canada, which Providence continues to protect and defend against the evergrowing dangers of these troubled times, has accomplished a task of which we must feel proud.

In this collective effort of a wounded world which tries to recover truth and peace, Canada has played a great and, at times, decisive part. The Canadian delegations to all the peace conferences have already drawn the attention of the whole world, and such delegations have always distinguished themselves by their courage, their working spirit and also by the dignity of their members.

We know it has been no easy task; but our country, through the voices of her representatives, the Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King), the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. St. Laurent) and all the other delegates, has faithfully fulfilled her task.

I am happy to have this other occasion to offer the expression of my sincere admiration to the president of our last delegation to the New York assembly and also to all the other members of this delegation which, like the one sent to Paris, has brought great honour to our country by the efficiency of the work done.

Let us trust that this effort of Canada will not be in vain and that it will contribute to