

*External Aid to Biafra*

not now acceptable to civilized men. A deliberate policy of famine stopped those efforts; the world now finds unacceptable such policies. We do not approve any longer of policies of non-intervention.

We can do some things to help and I think we all welcome the positive steps the minister has outlined. Canada could also take other steps, such as providing a ship which could be used as a neutral site for discussions between Nigeria and Biafra. I notice that in his statement the minister referred to Biafra as the secessionist area. Calling it Biafra is better, I think, since we are all used to the name. We could also press more vigorously for the establishment of an agency of the United Nations which could provide formal relief to areas afflicted by civil as well as international strife. We are lucky now to live in a world in which people are increasingly willing to cross boundaries,—boundaries which are artificial, anyway,—and see that aid is given to people on the other sides of those boundaries.

The heading of the most powerful editorial on this subject I have so far read, contained in the *London Times* of June 28, 1969, is, "A policy of famine". The editorial says in part:

It is the principle of dissociation of sensibility—out of sight out of mind—which permits the most evil things to be done by quite ordinary men.

I think a good many ordinary men of the world ought to be accused of this "dissociation". Arms supplied so cynically by the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom and, to a lesser extent, France, have only served to make a terrible situation worse. I hope that in making this announcement the Canadian government is at last showing evidence of willingness to pursue a policy of supplying food and medicines to a distressed area now cut off by a government that feels starvation is an acceptable part of war.

**Mr. Andrew Brewin (Greenwood):** Mr. Speaker, I warmly welcome the statement made by the Secretary of State for External Affairs. We understand that delicate negotiations are presently going on in an effort to obtain consent for daylight flights, which are essential if this matter is to be solved. In the face of what is an immense and grim human tragedy it would be wrong for us to speak in any but non-partisan tones.

I too would like to quote from the editorial in the *London Times* of June 28 to which the hon. member for Fundy-Royal (Mr. Fairweather) has already referred. This is the tone of the spirit we should all have. These words were directed to the government of the

[Mr. Fairweather.]

United Kingdom and I direct them to this government. "We should now devote all our diplomatic power, all the influence that remains and all the effort of the government to secure the effective relief in terms of food for Biafra at all costs and at once.

I welcome the fact that the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Sharp) has indicated Canada's willingness to provide neutral inspectors. I think this is an important suggestion. I believe it was made to the minister by Canairelief, which has played such an important part in the relief of starvation in Biafra. I agree with the hon. member for Fundy-Royal (Mr. Fairweather) that Canada should offer to take the initiative in providing a neutral locality for the parties to negotiate face to face, which might relieve the atmosphere of suspicion which the long distance negotiations have produced.

The arrangement as to conditions for daylight flights can only be made if the parties are brought face to face in the presence of some party which is neutral and friendly to both sides. There are two other matters which must be considered. I hope in future this government will direct its assistance to aid, not only to the International Red Cross, which has done a terrific job, but also to the joint Churchaid of which Canairelief is a part. This has been the most successful and effective agency. It has been assisted by the United States government and I hope this government will do the same.

I hope too that this government will follow through on the invocation of the jurisdiction of the United Nations to deal collectively in the name of humanity with the humanitarian problems involved. I hope this government will express publicly, repeatedly and clearly its objection to the importation of arms from Europe or anywhere else by either of the warring factions.

Having said this, Mr. Speaker, I am very happy to note that the government seems to be doing all it can to relieve this grim and tragic situation.

[Translation]

**Mr. Adrien Lambert (Bellechasse):** Mr. Speaker, while listening a while ago to the Secretary of State for External Affairs delivering to us a quite important message, it reminded me of another message which we must never forget: Peace on earth to men of good will!

The Secretary of State for External Affairs referred to the facilities which Canada could