

*Supply—External Affairs*

matter and when recognition would not have carried the connotations that it does today. Recognition, regardless of one's agreement with the government that holds office in any particular state, follows when certain matters are answered affirmatively. One has only to take the recent example of the recognition of the revolutionary government of South Viet Nam to understand that, whether countries agree or disagree with an administration, when under ordinary circumstances that administration will hold office for a period of time and has a degree of permanence about it, recognition takes place. But with the passing years—and I have found this everywhere in regard to Asia—today recognition of China would seem to carry with it the approval of communism as practised in that country. If I could use a homely illustration, all of us recognize the Secretary of State for External Affairs; but that recognition does not carry with it full approval of the things that he stands for.

The Secretary of State for External Affairs said that he desired to secure reasonable unanimity of opinion in the house and hoped we would be as non-partisan as possible. I intend to follow his suggestion in that connection and be as non-partisan as he was when he occupied the position of critic on external affairs during the days of the former administration. I would immediately point out the fact that I am glad to find the reputation of Canada internationally is so widely accepted. I was of those who argued at all times that this has always been Canada's reputation; but I recall that in 1963 in the month of January the hon. gentleman at that time had grave doubts as to Canada's international position. He spoke of the downgrading of Canada that had taken place. I would like to point out in this connection the fact that one who has recently received recognition from the Prime Minister, Mr. John W. Holmes, who was described by the Prime Minister as a wise Canadian commentator on U.S.-Canadian relations, made a statement in the *International Journal* regarding Canada's international position in which he said:

At the end of the second war, Canada emerged as the third strongest of the western powers and assumed in international organizations a position of influence not far behind that of the minor great powers. During the decade and a half since that time, Canada's population and resources continued to grow, but its relative position in the world fell off considerably.

That, from a man who was in the civil service in a high position during the days the former government was in office, indicates that whatever may have been the change in Canada's external prestige, it continued for a period of approximately 18 years subsequent to the war. As I listened to the

[Mr. Diefenbaker.]

Secretary of State for External Affairs today referring to what has been achieved in the field of international relations, including the test ban treaty, the hopes expressed regarding disarmament and the steps being taken, I was reminded of the fact that when the then secretary of state for external affairs, the Hon. Howard Green, pressed strongly for these forward steps there were those who now sit opposite who ridiculed what he was doing and alleged that what he was doing was in fact the result of a naïve lack of understanding of processes of international negotiations. Even the Secretary of State for External Affairs used these words in January last:

I simply say to the minister, it is one thing to work hard but it is another thing to work wisely in this field. I do not think it possible to work wisely unless we take into account the existing fundamental differences in ideology that prevail between the Soviet union and the free world, the existence of major political problems that divide east and west.

He also indicated there was altogether too much optimism on the part of Mr. Green in expressing the view that it would not be long before we would have achieved an international test ban agreement, now referred to in such fulsome and responsible terms by the Secretary of State for External Affairs.

Then the hon. gentleman referred to what had been achieved in relation to outer space. That brought back memories. It was in 1957 that I had the honour to bring this particular matter before the United Nations, setting out in detail a course of action to assure that outer space would not be used by the nations for purposes other than those of peace. Mr. Green pursued that course throughout the period during which he held the responsibility of office, and an agreement has now been achieved. Then the hon. gentleman mentioned another matter—the provision of help to nations which lack most of the economic opportunities which we have in Canada. One of the things we advocated throughout the years was the establishment of a food bank. That proposal met with derision. However, with the passing of the years it has become accepted as a basic principle of one of the agencies of the United Nations.

Then the hon. gentleman spoke of how trade could be a solvent of the difficulties between nations. He said the present government intended to continue the policy which was carried out, after much criticism, of selling non-strategic commodities to communist nations. I remember the hon. gentleman at that time—and I just recall this—making a statement about the selling of wheat to communist China on credit, to the effect that we sold on