

*Supply—External Affairs*

The west is not going to withdraw from West Berlin. Some are frightened by this prospect. But it is well not to panic. Stalin tried to take West Berlin in 1948; and when he was stopped by the western airlift, he did nothing. The Chinese communists have tried to take Quemoy and Matsu, to which I think they are entitled; but when they met opposition, they stopped. Khrushchev, in February 1958, created a Turkish-Syrian crisis in his experimental laboratory; but when nobody flinched, he did nothing. At the time of the Suez crisis, Moscow threatened to fire missiles at Great Britain. Go back to the time of that threat, the actual date and circumstances; I think it was a bluff. In any case, when the Americans actually landed in Lebanon, there was no Soviet counter-move.

I say, Mr. Chairman, that if we stand firm it may be that there will not be a war. In any event, stand firm we must. On the other hand, we have to realize that this is a serious problem, a problem which has been irritating a great power, the Soviet union. It is a situation which surely has been irritating some Germans, while it has been a matter of great satisfaction to many others. Perhaps Canada is the kind of country that can give to the consideration of this subject some greater flexibility than is possible for a major power like the United States. This penetration, so close to Poland, runs north of Czechoslovakia and could be a tremendous opportunity. Surely, the only answer to getting out of this dreadful situation of cold war is a penetration of a character that is not going to disrupt and cause trouble but is eventually going to work out in some happier relation. It seems to me that our non-nuclear troops have to be there and take whatever position we have to take at this time in order to see it through. Then this thing, God willing, will work itself out.

In this situation we have to be capable of self criticism. I am not satisfied we always have been in the past few years. Governor Stevenson spoke of self criticism as being the most important matter for a democracy. He called it the secret weapon of democracy. There has not been enough self criticism of ourselves and when I say that I mean, of course, ourselves and our neighbours.

There are certain facts that we should remember here. In the long history of affairs between Russia and Canada, with the exception of the Bering sea dispute of a number of years ago I think there has not been anything in the nature of armed conflict between our countries. This nation of Russia came into being by revolution in 1917, the year of my birth. It is a very young nation. Hon. members will recall all the irritations they have suffered, including attack by western powers, non-recognition, etc. We of course do not agree with their philosophy and we must oppose them on many counts. However, I ask the Secretary of State for External Affairs

[Mr. Matheson.]

this question. In these negotiations that take place, can we dare to forget the fact that Russia, in world war II sustained losses in casualties equal to the total population of Canada, that they fear Germany today and that there are realistic reasons why our attitude should be wise and considered? If a man as able as the one who spoke to me, and who is held in high regard in the Conservative party in my riding says to me, "No; these Germans are people who presented problems to the world in the past and we must watch them", then having him in mind, one who served in the Canadian forces in two wars, as did all the principal speakers in this debate, I would say that we must have some earnest sympathy with the Russian position and we must tread carefully and work with them to see whether there is not some possibility of reducing this situation to more favourable terms.

We must remember that this great nation we love—and I refer to the United States—was actually the author of the bomb, the nation that for its own purposes and in its own wisdom, dropped the bomb and destroyed two great Japanese cities. This is the nation which sent the U-2 flights over Russia not so very long ago and which under a dedicated and idealistic young president invaded Cuba. We are their best friends, and we are their best friends if we are honest friends and if we are prepared to assume slightly independent views.

It seems to me passing strange that we have an administration that was swept into power in this country very substantially through taking the position that there were certain respects in which Canada was adversely affected by the United States in economics and business, but when it comes to this important area of international affairs, they take the view "Wherever you go, we will go too and we will do exactly what you do". We are not serving the best interests of our best friends the Americans by taking a subservient role of such a character. I think this is a moment demanding truth. I think that rudeness between Canada and Russia, whether by speeches in the United Nations or anywhere else, does not serve any useful purpose at all. I think we must pause and consider that with all its recent scientific and technical achievement Russia has not received one kind word of congratulation or praise from our side. There has not been one case that I know of in Canada where any courtesy or kindness has been shown to Russia or any Russian dignitary. We almost look the other way if a Soviet personage passes through our country. We recognize that these are people that may destroy us. But the only way in which to defeat this dreadful situation that