

The Address—Mr. Harkness

its own national flag. I make this request as was done by a member of the other house, who once sat next to me in this house and who pointed out yesterday the humiliating situation in which Canada finds itself. Like him, I feel that it is humiliating for Canada to have throughout the world troops which cannot be identified by their own flag.

Mr. Speaker, in 1948, the convention of the Conservative party adopted a resolution to that effect. That was eight years ago and we are still waiting for the government to implement the convention's recommendation. We hope that it will receive favourably hon. senator Fournier's suggestion and that it will avail itself of Canada's participation in the United Nations police force to accede to our request.

(Text):

Mr. D. S. Harkness (Calgary North): Mr. Speaker, there has been a great deal of confused thinking with regard to the Middle East situation and the world situation generally. I think it was very well illustrated by the speech we heard a few minutes ago by the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles). In my opinion, at least, he paid no attention to the basic realities of the world situation, particularly those of the situation which has existed in the Middle East for the past several weeks and, as a matter of fact, for the past several months.

A great deal of the confused thinking which has arisen in regard to the present world crisis I think has sprung from a sense of shock. When the Israelis made their attack, followed by the intervention of Britain and France, I think most people in this country and in the United States and a large number in England experienced a considerable sense of shock. That shock was due to the fact, I think, that they did not know what the situation was, that they had not thought the thing through.

Most of us have had at the back of our minds for a number of years—ever since the last war—the thought that the United Nations was going to protect us from the outbreak of a third world war and was going to maintain peace. The fact that the United Nations apparently had been by-passed or disregarded by these countries consequently shocked people. It also shocked them to think that the United Nations had not been able to preserve peace; and particularly I think it shocked them when they realized that, as Mr. Eden said in effect, the reason the United Nations had been by-passed was that they were not capable of taking effective action in the Middle East under the circumstances which existed.

[Mr. Balcer.]

The feelings aroused as a result were feelings of considerable emotional strain. I do not wonder that feelings of that sort were aroused, and I do not wonder that they have caused a good deal of confused thinking. However, in my opinion they have served to obscure the basic realities of the world situation.

The fact which we must keep in mind in considering the present world crisis and the whole world situation is that which has been with us ever since shortly after the last war, namely that the world is divided into two great power blocs; Russia and her satellites on one side and the free world on the other side. A struggle has been going on between those two power blocs, with Russia and her supporters attempting by every means possible to increase her influence and power throughout the world with the ultimate object, of course, of destroying the western world and its free way of life. That is the basic fact and the one which, in my opinion, we must keep at the back of our minds in considering the present situation in the Middle East and the present world situation; but I am much afraid that it is a fact which has not been kept in mind.

Over the radio some time ago, when this thing was started, someone said that the NATO countries have too much to lose to quarrel seriously amongst themselves. I think that was a true statement. By quarrelling amongst themselves the NATO countries, the free nations of the western world, merely play into the hands of Russia. If the rift which has developed amongst the western nations continues and widens I think we can say goodbye to any hopes we may have of preventing a third world war and of our peoples in the west maintaining the way of life which we have known. In other words, we might as well throw in the sponge if we begin to fight amongst ourselves.

It seems to me that has been the great tragedy of this present situation, and that is the thing I have failed to understand with regard to the attitude of and the policy followed by the United States. It has seemed to me that the United States has completely lost sight of this basic fact. Their policy has been almost incredible in view of what the basic situation is and what they have known it is, and in view of the actions they took in Korea and elsewhere. Their policy certainly filled me with surprise and consternation.

Then when I found Canada tagging along in their wake and following essentially the same policy that the United States was following, I thought so disastrously, it was horrifying. I found it much more difficult to believe than what the United States was