

*Supply—External Affairs*

staff that the Soviet Union maintains in Canada. Perhaps two or three other representative countries could be included in this comparative statement so we will have an idea what the situation is in this respect. There will be an opportunity to take a further part in the debate as we consider the estimates and I appreciate the opportunity I have had of making these few observations.

**Mr. Allmand:** Mr. Chairman, although I am rising for the first time in this house I do so because I think the subject of international affairs and the related problems of war and peace are most important.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear.

**Mr. Allmand:** I was first attracted to political life because of my interest in international affairs and I was first attracted to this party because of my great admiration for the Prime Minister who during my college years made many significant and important contributions to the solution of these problems.

• (5:10 p.m.)

As a child growing up during the second world war I was particularly struck with the atrocities of war, with its meaninglessness, its negativism and its complete frustration for all men. It was at that time when I was very young that I made up my mind to try to work toward the abolition of war and, as I say, this is one of the main reasons I entered politics.

When I was home during the last few weeks discussing some of the issues with my constituents, they were raising the question of the abolition of the death penalty and I was giving them the reasons for my particular stand on this issue. They said to me, "Well, if you would vote for the abolition of the death penalty for those reasons you would also vote for the abolition of war". I said, "If I could vote for it in the House of Commons of Canada, I would, but unfortunately it requires the consent of many other parliaments".

When the United Nations was established I was full of enthusiasm that it would serve as an effective means of bringing about peace in the world. Although I believe it has done much thus far, I feel it could do much more. The government has indicated so far, especially in the Speech from the Throne, that it intends to take further action in this direction. For this and for all they have already done I want to congratulate them.

During the past year two significant events took place in the world which directed attention to the importance of the United Nations

[Mr. Patterson.]

and the work it can do for peace. One of these events was the visit of Pope Paul to the United Nations in which this man who is a non-political figure pleaded with the world to try to refer more and more of the problems of war and peace to the United Nations and to work toward the prevention of war.

During the same year a large and prestigious conference took place in the United States known as the Pacem in Terris Conference. This conference gathered together eminent scientists, philosophers, journalists, politicians and other experts from all over the world to discuss the problems of war and peace from an objective point of view, a non-political point of view, and to try and find some real solutions. They also brought these problems to the attention of the public in general, and I think that today more than ever before it is important and legitimate that the public be interested in these questions which in the past have only been dealt with by politicians and experts. I say it is legitimate that the public in general be interested in these questions today, Mr. Chairman, because today politicians can involve total populations in wars, which could be disastrous for all of us.

I know that the younger people of Canada are particularly concerned about these things and they often wonder if they are not being asked to build a new and greater Canada and a new and greater world only to have them destroyed in a senseless war. I hope our government will continue to act with initiative and courage in these matters and that it will work to support programs that will make the United Nations an effective forum for world peace. I hope that steps will finally be taken to see that all of China is represented at the United Nations, that steps will be taken to provide the United Nations with a more permanent, effective and properly financed police force, and that there will be increased efforts toward disarmament and a greater reference of international disputes to the World Court.

I took note earlier in the session, Mr. Chairman, of the remarks made by the hon. member for Sherbrooke when he cited the percentage of our budget spent on defence and military matters. He pointed out that in Canada we spend approximately 25 per cent of our budget on defence and he also pointed out that many other countries of approximately the same size spend on an average 15 per cent. He cited figures in this respect. France spends 23 per cent of its budget on