

We find that even the minister had considerable doubts as to the wisdom of pressing this issue at this time.

Again may I refer to what the Manchester *Guardian* said in the issue which came to my desk at noon today. It pointed out that this growing bitterness in India was due to the fact that India was taking the onus for the belief that was held by some other countries associated with India and that India was in danger of "taking the rap" for expressing those views and for voting in the manner in which she did. We have all noted in the press—and I think it was most regrettable—a suggestion made in the United States that because of India's attitude she should be denied the immediate granting of the large quantity of wheat for which she has been asking and which she needs in order to prevent widespread misery and famine as a result of crop failures in that land. Because we believe that the resolution which Canada supported was "both premature and unwise", and because we fear that it will result in driving China more completely into the Soviet orbit and will jeopardize the friendship of a large proportion of the 550 million or 600 million people in southeast Asia, I am going to move, seconded by the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles), that the following words be added to the amendment moved by the leader of the opposition (Mr. Drew):

We further regret that while Your Excellency's advisers have generally followed a constructive course in relation to the Korean dispute, they have in relation to the resolution branding China as an aggressor supported a course which is premature and unwise at this particular moment, and which should not have been pursued until the methods of peaceful negotiation had been completely exhausted.

As I said earlier, perhaps we can mitigate this danger of driving the Asiatic peoples into the arms of the Soviet union by endeavouring to send quantities of food to India and to do all that we can to promote the success of the plan to which the Prime Minister (Mr. St. Laurent) alluded a short time ago; I refer to the Colombo plan. I know that it has been said that we have not a sufficient amount of wheat of the right grade and in position. We have a good deal of frozen wheat, grade No. 5 and grade No. 6 which is used as feed. I am told that while it does not make the best of flour, grade No. 5 wheat will make flour; and for people who are starving, even grade No. 5 wheat would be most acceptable. If we cannot give a better grade of wheat, I think that this house and this country should give consideration to giving the best that we can give in order to show not only our friendship for

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India but also the desirability of stamping out the results of famine and of keeping close contact with this great Asiatic people.

We shall have an opportunity of saying more about the Colombo plan a little later, but right now I want to say that I think it is the most imaginative plan ever adopted by the commonwealth countries. It contemplates aid not only to the commonwealth countries in southeast Asia but to those countries that are outside of the commonwealth—I do not need to name them all, but I might name two or three such as Burma, Thailand and Indonesia—all of whose problems are similar to those facing the commonwealth countries in Asia.

As I said a moment ago, 570 million people or thereabouts—one-quarter of the world's population—are living in that part of the world outside of China. They have ancient cultures and philosophies and they provide a challenge to the democratic nations if we desire to prevent the spread of totalitarian communism and the influence of the Soviet union among them; for people are an easy prey to that kind of propaganda, whether it be of the communist or of the fascist type, when their stomachs are empty and their bodies are weak. Food and clothing, it seems to me, in this particular area are more important weapons of defence than guns, planes, and ships of war; although I am not saying for one moment that we must not also build up our defensive materiel as well. Today, after the destructive war with Japan, and if sanctions follow the naming of China as an aggressor, the suffering that already exists there will be intensified. May I say that, as far as China is concerned, sanctions will scarcely affect the main trade lines of China because China does not trade much with the west anyhow but trades largely with the Asian countries. If we attempt to bomb the centres in China, we must not forget that there is a Soviet-Chinese mutual assistance pact, and we may find ourselves faced with the effects of that pact. I am glad that the government is going to place before us proposals in conformity with the Colombo plan. I hope that the proposals, if they are sufficiently effective, will be supported by all parties in this house and, incidentally, by all the people throughout the country.

My time is limited but there are a few minutes left. I want to say this on the subject of defence which came up this afternoon. I was interested in what the Prime Minister said. I think his statement was a courageous one. It was probably in line with the needs of the country at this time; but I should like to add this to what he said this afternoon. Before we come to a conclusion on what we are going to do in regard to the raising of an