

*Supply—External Affairs*

the members of this party, as did members of the other parties on this side of the house, for the purpose and concept of that trip. I believe that the Prime Minister performed a great service in India in expressing the friendship of Canada to that great nation associated with us in its new status, and I also believe that he accepted, in a manner that may have very far-reaching consequences, the opportunity to indicate our confidence in the people of the United States. Expressions such as he has placed before the government and people of India at that time can greatly help in broadening the basis of this wide understanding that we have.

Throughout the years, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa have all emerged as fully sovereign states. This evolution has at no time demanded the force of arms to attain the status we now hold. In the same steady process of evolution, India, Pakistan and Ceylon have now emerged with similar sovereign status, under the guidance of Westminster, with the blessing of Westminster and with assistance in drafting their constitutions and other details of that kind from those who have for so long been in the civil service at a time when the status of those nations was entirely different.

If there has seemed to be caution and delay on the part of the government of Great Britain about the steps it has been taking, we certainly must remember that never at any time is there absent from their mind the thought that has been expressed here today, that as we merge into the future it is of vital importance if it is within the realm of wisdom and human judgment to bring along that same body of Asiatic nations that have carried into Asia our parliamentary system and our concept of individual freedom. Every great human venture, Mr. Chairman, demands a conviction on the part of those who seek to make it a reality. It is not only in the spiritual field, but in the temporal field as well that there is at all times a deep longing in every human to be able to say with conviction, I believe.

In the temporal field in this great experiment in human advancement it is important that we be able to say with deep conviction: I believe in the advantages of this association; I believe in the future of the commonwealth for our own benefit and for the benefit of free people everywhere. This is not something in which we alone have a deep concern. Let us be quite certain that if by neglect this commonwealth of ours should fall asunder, then we would be talking in terms of meaningless hope if we declared our expectations that other nations could retain throughout the years ahead any effective

association of some other kind. If these nations with their common concept of freedom, if these nations with their common traditions are unable to work together, then what hope can there be for an effective association of nations with no such common background behind them?

I would hope that as this loosely associated partnership of nations moves forward into the future—speaking not of five years ahead but of 50, 100 and 200 years ahead—we will also bear in mind that if our course is wise and if we do demonstrate the great advantage of this system, then we have every reason to expect there may be new additions to this fellowship. It is not long ago since Burma became a separate republic outside of the commonwealth. Still I say that in the years not too far distant, by the example we may set, Burma might seek re-entry into that commonwealth. Is it utterly beyond possibility that the example of effective co-operation of so many races, creeds, tongues and nationalities, might offer such an example that nations not at any time in the past associated with this fellowship might seek association in this historic partnership?

I would hope that it is not impossible that at some time in the future, because of the example given through this great association, southern Ireland or Eire, call it what you will, might re-enter this partnership with which it was once associated. Most certainly on our part, as I am sure on the part of every other section of the commonwealth, that re-entry would be welcomed with great warmth and enthusiasm. Then let us think of this great partnership in practical terms. We speak of stability in Asia. Where could we have greater hope of stability in Asia than in a powerful India, associated with us, associated with Pakistan, with Ceylon, with Australia, New Zealand and the other nations in that part of the world.

There are many of us here who have reason to know the great fighting qualities of Indian soldiers. There are men in this house tonight who have seen Indian troops in action, and who will never forget those magnificent men and the bravery they displayed. I am not mentioning that in warlike terms by any manner of means. Unfortunately, in this world in which we live we are called upon to think in terms of strength which will provide the opportunity for peace and freedom. As India gains increasing national strength, as India gains increasing prosperity with our help and with the help of other nations in the western world, we may hope that Indian strength will be the great bulwark of democracy in Asia; that Pakistan and Ceylon, side by side, will stand for that kind of