

Supply—External Affairs

Anyone who has taken the trouble, as have I, to study the history of the Ukrainian people could not help but realize what they have gone through. He could not fail to realize that through the centuries they have fought and suffered loss of life and worldly possessions in order to hold the right of freedom when oppression came to them from the east or south again and again. Nor could he fail to realize that a nation which went through all that and still held fast to that spark of freedom must have people of great character who can and will take their place, with free Canadians and people in other parts of the British commonwealth of nations, in upholding the British traditions of freedom. Britain went through a similar struggle. The people of the Ukraine also developed love of freedom through it.

It has been my honour and pleasure to have known, lived among and worked with people from all parts of Europe. I can say that probably 60 per cent of the people in my own constituency come from the Ukraine and eastern parts of Europe. I do not know of any people who have done as well—and certainly few have done better—in taking their place in Canadian life and Canadian democracy. In our institutions of learning, including our universities they have taken their place as good Canadians. When we were called upon to defend ourselves against the threats to democracy, these people were among the first to answer the call. I would say that their history has created in them a great consciousness of the value of democratic freedom. They are extremely alert to any signs of decay in, or any attacks upon that freedom within their country. They are ready to work and to sacrifice in order to maintain that freedom. I think the Canadian people should appreciate that.

My first personal experience with these people was in the schools of our own province. Here I found those students taking the lead in their classes. I found students going to our universities and passing their examinations with the highest marks. I think of a girl from my area who graduated from the University of Saskatchewan in 1950 with the highest marks ever attained by any student in that university, Miss Sylvia Fedoruk, who is today giving leadership in a branch of physics at our university in the treatment of cancer. She has been engaged in the technical part of the handling of the cobalt bomb for cancer treatment.

These people in all walks of life are taking their place. I did not wish the minister's remarks today in any way to cast any reflection upon these people. The lesson which we have to learn is that people are pretty much

the same the world over. You cannot generalize and say that one group of humanity is more this or more that. Given the opportunity, all people throughout the world want freedom. They want the right to live. They want the right of self-determination. They abhor dictatorships and autocracy. They dislike slavery in any form. Such people some day will show the world that that part of Europe and Asia can take its place along with the rest of the world in moving all mankind forward as one people toward a better world.

Mr. Crestohl: Mr. Chairman, the minister and his department in recent years have so consistently been following a satisfactory foreign policy that I had no intention to participate in this debate. But unfortunately recent rather explosive events command the attention of everyone concerned with peace in the Middle East. I therefore rise for a few moments to make some observations.

The dictator of Egypt, since his rise to power, has constantly professed that he has no aggressive intentions. What can be more aggressive, Mr. Chairman, than the arbitrary and unilateral seizure of a vital international waterway created by the terms of a legal and binding contract? It is this exposure that brings me to my feet in order to again caution peace-loving world leaders to courageously arrest any further aggression in that or any other part of the world.

It should be obvious to the entire world that the predicament in which Colonel Nasser now finds himself may drive him to further acts of aggression, unless he will know that his move will be successfully repelled. It is obvious to everyone that to retain his popularity at home he may be driven to attack Israel. I suspect that this may be his next move. I therefore, Mr. Chairman, make the forthright statement that the plea by the government of Israel for defence planes should be met as quickly as possible, and before it becomes too late.

I further emphasize that, as the hon. member for Prince Albert so clearly pointed out, Egypt is in possession of a very large fleet of offensive bombers. Israel does not ask for bombers. She asks for jet planes to prevent Egyptian bombers from destroying her. Providing Israel with these defensive planes is not only a humanitarian act but, even more, is a step in defence of the position of the western powers in that area.

Let us frankly and courageously face the facts, Mr. Chairman. The western powers have no one else in that area on whom they can rely as safely as upon Israel. This point has been constantly made by almost every speaker familiar with the problem. Why,