

*Supply—External Affairs*

with the question of trade and the new Russian pattern of offensive throughout the world, and had referred to the commonwealth prime ministers' meeting regarding which little information has as yet been given to parliament. In the *London Observer* I read as follows:

The economic challenge in Russia's new policy has been a dominating theme of the commonwealth prime ministers' conference in London.

The range and scale of the Russian trade drive is at present small in comparison with the commercial activity of the west. But its totalitarian methods put the competitive free world at a disadvantage, and unless a way is found to match them, could enormously increase the Russian rewards.

I feel that the house should receive in detail the picture of the problem as the commonwealth prime ministers saw it and also of what means were arrived at, whether tentatively or finally, with regard to this matter. In the speech given by Mr. Shepilov—now the foreign minister—at the twentieth congress of the communist party we had a warning that this new type of offensive was to take place. He said this:

The countries of the socialist camp propose to test the advantages of the two social systems in competition in the arena of peaceful economy, not in rivalry on the battlefield . . . Socialism has become a world system which is gaining in stature and strength . . . Before the second war the socialist system accounted for 17 per cent of the world's territory, 9 per cent of its population, 7 per cent of its industrial production; today "we" occupy more than 25 per cent of the world's territory,—

As compared with 17 per cent of the world's territory just before the war.

—comprise upwards of 35 per cent of its total population, and account for roughly 30 per cent of its industrial production.

Mr. Shepilov has since then become foreign minister, so that his words carry with them a peculiar importance and also an ominous warning to the free world. I ask the minister whether or not, in the interests of preserving and maintaining the strength of the British commonwealth in its crusade for freedom, there should be convened a British commonwealth trade conference to the end of rectifying the present dangerous position in which Canada finds itself in relation to the United States in buying almost \$1 billion worth of goods a year more than the United States sells here. Does not that situation demand that effective and vital action be taken in order to expand our trade elsewhere? For it is only through trade that the debits of trade can be met by the credits of trade, regardless of how many countries that trade may include.

I say this to the minister. He pointed out—and in this I join with him—the fears of these people behind the iron curtain, these

[Mr. Diefenbaker.]

countries that were subjugated by Stalin and also by his predecessor Lenin. I feel that these peoples who live in slavery must be made to realize that the free world has not forgotten them. The outbreak in east Berlin in 1953 revealed that there were cracks in the monolith of communist unity. Those cracks were again revealed to a larger extent in the recent uprising among the Polish people in Poznan. Those cracks reveal that communism faces increasing difficulties in restraining the pressure of freedom-loving people under their control.

A year ago, when I was in east Berlin, the number of refugees who were fleeing from communism to the west numbered about 10,000 a month, as I recall it. The number during the last month and in recent months has been up to 22,000 a month. This fact reveals clearly that however sternly the communist governments in those satellite countries look upon migrations from those countries, more and more of the peoples under their control are using every means at their disposal to escape from the tyranny under which they live. In "The Old regime" de Tocqueville said this of the French revolution:

The evils which are endured with patience so long as they are inevitable seem intolerable as soon as a hope can be entertained of escaping from them.

That is as true today as it was then. What has taken place in Poznan in Poland and what took place in East Germany show that there is a feeling of ferment. At this time when the U.S.S.R., in such grandiloquent terms, is espousing its conversion from the awfulness of Stalinism, I think that Canada and the western powers should give consideration to calling on the Soviet union to restore freedom to the subject nations of eastern Europe. Let us give them a message of hope. The United States did that after Poznan. The state department expressed sympathy with the families of the dead. They let those people know that they were not being forgotten. At this time, when the U.S.S.R. is endeavouring with all its might to lead the western world to believe that it has changed its attitude, I think that a declaration of moral support would give new hope to the peoples of the Ukraine, Poland, Czechoslovakia, the Baltic states, east Germany and those elsewhere. It would keep burning their uncertain light of freedom. It would give to them a realization that the conscience of the free world believes that only in the restoration to freedom of the subject peoples can there be the achievement of an assured peace, something towards which all of us strive. Should we not also say this to the U.S.S.R. at this time: In