

*Supply—External Affairs*

policy of the former administration and it continues to be the policy of the present government of Canada. The secretary of state in the United States, commenting on this matter the other day asked what about the people of Formosa? Are we to leave these people to the wolves? There are some 12 million people on that island. The history of recent times certainly warrants consideration by a country such as Canada as to their welfare and their legitimate position. In the statement I made on May 22 I suggested that the time was probably close at hand when we should give consideration in the United Nations to the steps which could be taken to protect the integrity of that country. This is no academic question; it is a question of importance. We have been canvassing the reaction to what was involved in the statement of policy which I made in the house on May 22.

I fully appreciate the debate which has taken place today on this question. It is important that there should be a realization of how this house feels about a matter which involves the most populous country in the world, mainland China a country whose position now, in the light of the situation which confronts all nations, cannot be ignored. The question of the admission of that country to the United Nations and of the recognition of the regime of that country are matters of the most fundamental importance and, as I indicated today, we have been giving this subject the fullest and the most responsible consideration that we know how to give. We have been discussing the matter with a number of countries. The interest of those countries, their assessment of the consequences, the resulting situation in Asia itself, the consequences within the United Nations—all these questions are inevitably involved in the consideration which I have been giving to this matter, and which I shall continue to give to it.

I am not in a position tonight to go any further than I have gone, and I would not be expected to do so by anyone with a full appreciation of the importance of this matter. I do fully share the view uttered tonight by the secretary general of the United Nations, if not in the same precise context, which prompted him to say that we had to take into account the desirability of furthering the universality of the United Nations. I think I can stand in this house along with any other member and say I have given evidence, by my contribution in the United Nations, of my support for this principle of universality,

[Mr. Martin (Essex East).]

since it was through an effort of Canada in 1955 that a number of new nations were brought into the organization. We are examining this problem in the light of what we believe to be the interest of the United Nations, and the interest of world peace. We are taking into account all the relevant considerations particularly in Asia, bearing in mind all that is involved, as well, in our relationships with other countries. No foreign policy could be based on any other assessment. A foreign policy which ignores national interests in their broadest context is not a well based foreign policy. We will have to take a position at the United Nations. We will take a position after the fullest consideration of all that is involved. It will be an unequivocal position, a responsible position, and the result of a thorough examination of all that we believe to be involved.

**Mr. Smallwood:** Mr. Chairman, I have just one short remark to make to the minister. I want to thank him from the bottom of my heart for the answer he gave me in his usual manner, because he skirted right around the question and never really answered it. I wonder whether, now that the government had admitted sending the prodigal son home to Haile Selassie at Addis Ababa, where the fatted calf was killed in his honour, the minister would consider sending one of his experienced officials of the Department of External Affairs to the Congo to try and help these hostages in their serious situation.

**Mr. Martin (Essex East):** Mr. Chairman, when my hon. friend speaks about returning home, I want to say to him—and I am sure he will agree—that what I have been saying is a matter that affects home as do perhaps few other problems. With regard to the question as to the decision of the government to send the hon. member for Red Deer on this mission, I can only reiterate what I said earlier. We are faced, as other governments are faced, with a serious situation in Stanleyville, where about 800 people are held as hostages. It would not be possible for anyone to say with any measure of certainty what is going to happen there.

Among that number are some 37 or 38 Canadians, some of them missionaries. We have tried to resort to every means within our power to obtain, along with other countries, the release of these hostages. In addition to the hon. member for Red Deer, one of our own officials, Mr. Gauvin, who likewise has had contact with some of the personalities involved in Stanleyville, is there