

Hungary

Before I deal with the matters referred in the speech and in the amendment on the Middle East, may I say just one word about Hungary. The Canadian government has already expressed its views in Ottawa and at the United Nations Assembly on this matter. We have witnessed as brutal and as grim a betrayal of a people as history has ever seen, a people who were asking only for freedom from Communist colonial domination and the right to run their own affairs. The recent actions of the Soviet Union in Hungary throw a lurid light on the protestations we have heard that Stalinism is now dead and peaceful coexistence is here. But there has been no more significant exposure of the underlying, and I am afraid enduring, purpose and methods of Soviet power. Soviet tanks and Soviet guns have killed Hungarian freedom fighters, but they did not and they cannot kill Hungarian freedom.

What can we do here in Canada and at the United Nations? Well, we can help the victims of this terror, and we learned last night of what we are doing in that regard. We can keep, through the United Nations as we are trying to do, the spotlight of world public opinion, the conscience of the world, the moral force of world opinion, on the savage actions of the Soviet Union. We can do our best to help Hungarians in that way and to bring the United Nations into Hungary in the role of observers and investigators. We must continue our efforts toward that end; but we would not be helping the Hungarian people--I think we might be hurting them--if we held out promises of liberation by force which at this time we would not be able to fulfil. There is, however, I think, some hope in the growing evidence that eastern Europe is now beginning to free itself from the shackles of Russian slavery and oppression, and that development is expressing itself at the United Nations assembly at this time.

The Middle East

Now, Mr. Speaker, I come to the Middle East. The debates in this house--and we have been meeting for only a few hours--has already shown that a very real difference on policy has developed between the government and the official opposition. The speeches of the Acting Leader of the Opposition and the hon. member for Vancouver-Quadra, who has just preceded me, have made that quite clear. The official opposition--and I think we can assume that the speakers in question had the support of all the members of the official opposition; they should have to judge from the applause they received from their colleagues--now apparently support every move made by the United Kingdom and France in their intervention in Egypt after the attack on Egypt by Israel, an intervention brought about with army, navy and air forces after a 12-hour ultimatum. They claim, I have the right to conclude, that we as a government should have approved of those moves at once and should have backed up the United Kingdom and France at the United Nations even on those matters and on those resolutions where not a single member of the United Nations supported the resolutions in question.