

I do not believe that in the long run this dark practice of government through tyranny and ignorance can prevail even within the shadow of the iron curtain. I am confident that the resources of the human spirit, which for a thousand years have made western and eastern Europe the fountainhead of light and progress, are strong enough to withstand this seige. In one after another of the intellectual and cultural centres of Europe, the light of freedom has temporarily disappeared, and now it shows only in the western lands which are beyond the reach of the Russian soldier. But even though we cannot see it I know that that light still burns, and that eventually it will help lift the darkness that now surrounds it.

The United Nations

May I now turn for a moment or two, Mr. Speaker, on a subject which has been of very immediate interest to me in recent weeks; that is, the United Nations. If we take a round view of the United Nations I think there is reason to believe that it has been strengthened rather than weakened during the past year; and in spite of some discouragements and difficulties my experience with this United Nations assembly confirms me in that view. There is no need for me to point out here that it has failed to solve all major problems that confront us. It has not healed the breach between east and west. It has not produced a solution for the control of atomic energy, or an agreed plan for disarmament. Because it has not provided us with world wide security we have had to have recourse to supplementary and, if you like, "second best" arrangements, such as the North Atlantic treaty. Nevertheless the United Nations has important accomplishments to its credit in political, economic and social matters.

These, I think, have at least helped to reduce international tension. I think we ought not to exaggerate what has been accomplished, and we must look squarely at the problems that remain to be faced; nevertheless I think we should recognize what has been achieved because it is on this that we must build, and we must go on building.

First let us examine the successes the United Nations has had in the political field. I think we can look back with some pride upon the accomplishments of the security council during the two years Canada has been a member of that council, because Canada has made a very respectable contribution to those accomplishments. The work of the security council of course has been uneven and imperfect. No one knows that better than I; but it has I think prevented serious disorders in many places from spreading into wars which could have involved the whole world. Furthermore, and this is something that should be understood if we are trying to assess the value of the security council, the responsibility for dealing with these situations has fallen upon it during three most difficult and dangerous years, when the problems of the world have been complicated by the unrest which always follows in the wake of a major war.

I should like to mention just three of those achievements. The first was Kashmir, where the situation might very well have exploded into tragic events, but where at least it has been contained. The United Nations commission is on the spot helping bring about a peaceful solution. Then Palestine, where of course the United Nations was not able to prevent an unhappy conflict, but where I think the United Nations actually did limit that conflict and help prevent it from spreading over a much wider area. The United Nations is still labouring there to bring about a final solution, I think with great hope of success. Even more important was the success of the security council in the Indonesian matter, a particularly difficult and complicated problem which at one time seemed as though it could not be solved by international action. In this case I think we have some reason to be proud in Canada. To a very considerable extent it was as the result of a Canadian resolution, which was attacked from both sides, that the machinery finally was set up by the security council which now, happily, in a conference at The Hague has brought about a peaceful and satisfactory solution, one which I think will stick, in respect of this complicated and dangerous Indonesian problem.

Though I have been talking about political matters, partly because we have been on the security council for the last two years, I do not want to overlook