

STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

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UNITED ACTION FOR PEACE

Statement by Mr. L.B. Pearson, Secretary of State for External Affairs, and Chairman of the Canadian Delegation to the United Nations General Assembly, made in the plenary session on November 3, 1950.

As one of the sponsors of the resolution which is now before the General Assembly, I should like to add a few words concerning it before the vote is taken, and also a few words, although it is tempting to say more than a few words, on the statements made to the General Assembly by the leader of the Soviet Union delegation.

When he spoke yesterday, Mr. Vishinsky complained of the rattle and the thunder of our speeches in support of this resolution. According to him, they were "mendacious sneers and rude outbursts against the Soviet Union". All the sponsors of this resolution, in his opinion, had "vied with each other in impudence and crudeness", and he urged the participants in this debate to stick to the resolution and argue either for it or against it, strictly on its merits. Then what did he do in his own speech? When he came to the rostrum, he attempted to drag the debate down to the level of an attack on various individuals and, more particularly on Mr. Dulles. So far as I could see from where I sat, Mr. Dulles seemed to receive this verbal assault with equanimity. He probably realized that he was safe since a debate in the General Assembly is not a purge. He may even have taken some satisfaction, as an author, from knowing that his book was receiving so much valuable publicity.

Moreover, instead of sticking to the resolution, Mr. Vishinsky spent most, or a great part, of his speech in discussing the report of the Bell Commission on the Philippines, Mussolini's attack on Ethiopia, the election, or rather the continuation in office of our Secretary-General, the characteristics of monopoly capitalism and, especially, the events of the autumn of 1939, events which do, in fact, bear a relationship to the resolution which is before us.

On this subject, we were privileged to hear from the leader of the Soviet delegation the pure party line on the cordial but temporary friendship struck up at that time between the Nazis and Moscow, and I must tell him frankly that his account of that episode simply will not wash. He assured us that the sole purpose of the Soviet-German pact in 1939 was to enable the U.S.S.R. to fill gaps in its defences for the attack which it knew was coming. If that is a true explanation, why did the Soviet Union do its best, after the destruction of Poland, to force the nations of the British Commonwealth and France to stop fighting Hitler, and why did