

atomic warfare. Do we really believe it will come? Do we agree with General Hoyt S. Vandenburg, Chief of the United States Air Force, who says that nothing can defend the United States from an atomic bomb attack by Russia? He thinks that even with radar stations every ten miles, the best that could be hoped for would be to bring down twenty to thirty per cent of the Russian bombers. He cites the gallant action of the allied air force against the Luftwaffe in the Battle of Britain, and points to the fact that slightly under ten per cent of the enemy aircraft were destroyed. Then, if we believe this country to be in immediate danger from atomic warfare, why is it that no directions are being given for the distribution of industrial plants throughout this country from the Atlantic to the Pacific? True, the question of labour is an important one; but if the safety of the nation is at stake, the government should consider decentralization of industry more seriously than it has in the past. Of course it is not practical to move a large airplane factory from Halifax to the prairies or to British Columbia, but there is a great deal of work—particularly on the secret list—which could be strategically placed throughout the ten provinces. To my mind it is not wise to centralize industry in heavily populated centres such as Montreal, Toronto or Hamilton.

The government should also be giving more attention than it has been giving to the defence of the Pacific coast. I do not know how many of us review our geography from time to time. I find it a wonderful education to do so. When we look at a map of the world it is readily apparent that the northern sea-coast of Russia is on the 70th parallel of latitude, and that Churchill, in northern Manitoba, is around the 60th parallel. The great Russian port of Vladivostok is situated on the 45th parallel, which is about the latitude of Toronto, Vancouver and Seattle. It may interest honourable senators to know that last year ten drydocks were towed through the Panama Canal on their way to Vladivostok. I sometimes think that all that some people in the East think of is the Atlantic coast, forgetting entirely about the Pacific coast. Yet that is where the Russians may attack. As a matter of fact, they once owned Alaska. At one time Russia claimed sovereignty over the Pacific Ocean, and occupied military forts and ports as far south as San Francisco. So I urge the government to pay more heed to the Pacific, and for the safety of the nation to decentralize industry, particularly our war industries.

And what about our cities and hospitals? The great General Hospital in Vancouver, filled with patients, is jammed in the heart of the city. Can anybody imagine what

would happen if atom bombs were dropped on Vancouver? As a senator I am going to object to the expenditure by the Department of Health and Welfare of any more money on the enlarging of Vancouver General Hospital. It is almost too large now, and it is in one of the most populous centres in the heart of the city. We must be practical about such matters. We talk too lightly about the atomic bomb; in our hearts many of us do not fully realize its possibilities. If we did, measures of preparedness would be under way now, before any such calamity comes upon us.

I think the international situation today can be fairly described by saying that the world is aflame. Let me mention where the flames are. There is the war in Korea; there is the upheaval in China—the Communist victory, so-called, and there is war in Indo-China. There is a very difficult and serious situation in Burma; and terrorism in Malaya. India and Pakistan are at loggerheads over Kashmir. Indonesia is ravaged by disorder. There is of course the menace of Soviet imperialism; and well-informed people believe that Yugoslavia may be attacked by some of her neighbours behind the Iron Curtain. Another danger I foresee—and it is one of the greatest—is the threat of discord and division between the members of the North Atlantic pact. Moreover, treaties of peace with Germany and Japan—of which I will speak in a few moments—have yet to be signed.

I believe that the position taken by Hon. Mr. Pearson, the Secretary of State, with regard to Korea was the right one, and that the British were justified in recognizing the Chinese government. I do not believe anyone can successfully controvert the statement that Great Britain has had a long experience in the matter of external relations and foreign affairs, and that she knows more about eastern and other foreign countries, diplomatically speaking, than either the United States or many other powers.

Hon. Mr. Baird: Communist China?

Hon. Mr. Reid: Was she wrong to recognize China?

Hon. Mr. Duff: She was wrong.

Hon. Mr. Reid: The honourable senator from Lunenburg (Hon. Mr. Duff) is entitled to his opinion, but I am inclined to the view that she was right, and that it is unwise to simply attach the term "Communist" to China without giving a second thought to what is going on in that country. Nehru, who knows conditions well in Korea and China, has stated that such an attitude may throw the Chinese right into the arms of Soviet Russia.