

The Address—Mr. A. W. Stuart

and calls attention to the article of the peace treaty with Hungary, to which Canada is a party, and which provides that:

"Hungary shall take all measures necessary to secure to all persons under Hungarian jurisdiction, without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion, the enjoyment of human rights and of the fundamental freedoms, including freedom of expression, of press and publication, of religious worship, of political opinion, and of public meeting."

The Canadian ambassador delivered this protest to the Hungarian minister, who undertook to communicate it to his government. That is how the matter now stands.

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

CONTINUATION OF DEBATE ON ADDRESS IN REPLY

The house resumed from Tuesday, February 1, consideration of the motion of Mr. D. F. Brown for an address to His Excellency the Governor General in reply to his speech at the opening of the session, and the amendment thereto of Mr. Drew, and the amendment to the amendment of Mr. Coldwell.

Mr. A. W. Stuart (Charlotte): Mr. Speaker, when the house adjourned last evening I was speaking with regard to the conditions I had encountered during my visit overseas last August. For a short time today I should like to carry on and describe as best I can the conditions I found in Greece during the short visit I made to that country.

You will all remember that in October, 1940, that country was invaded by the Italians. The Greek people put up a gallant fight and drove the Italians back into Albania. Then their country was invaded by the Germans, who held the country under their control for about four years.

During the German occupation bridges, rolling stock, engines and everything connected with their railroads were destroyed, stolen or taken out of the country in some manner or other. The ports of the country were greatly damaged by the Germans, Italians and Albanians and after the country had been occupied by the Germans great damage was done by the British and United States air forces. Seventy-five per cent of the shipping of the country was lost, including freighters and passenger ships.

Seven thousand villages were burned and destroyed. The forests of the entire country were cut down for fuel or to be exported to Germany and other countries. Even the olive trees were cut down for that purpose. All the cattle, horses and farm machinery were stolen while the Germans occupied the country. During the occupation by the Germans and the Italians thousands of Greek men, women and children died of starvation, tuberculosis or from other causes. There is today very little equipment in the country to take care of their sick.

Greece is a country of 7,500,000 population. Today 700,000 are refugees who have been driven from their homes. They are without a place to live in or without food to eat. Fourteen thousand children have been stolen by the guerrillas and are being taught communism. During my short stay there I saw in northern Greece thousands of people living in United States army tents without food, without clothing and without fuel. I remember seeing those people boiling chestnuts in nothing but water until they were soft enough to eat. Outside of a little bread they had no food at all. In one square mile I saw more starvation, suffering and grief than I saw in all the rest of Europe.

Clothing, bedding, shoes, food, particularly food for children, are all badly needed today. Building materials are greatly needed, particularly roofing materials. Many people could have some sort of shelter if they only had a roof that would keep out the weather. When I see the large surplus of potatoes in my own province of New Brunswick, when I realize the great production of canned fish on both the Atlantic and the Pacific coasts, when I know that farm products are in plentiful supply in Canada today, I wonder if we as Canadians and Christians cannot give some support to these people, who are directly fighting communism, if we could not share with them some of the wealth we have in this country of ours.

In my estimation the people of Greece are not fighting for Greece alone. They are blocking the gateway to the Mediterranean. They are the only barrier between communistic Russia and the Mediterranean and there is little doubt in my mind that Russia would like to have a hold in the Mediterranean, particularly close to the Suez canal. These people are blocking that gateway and, as I have said, they are living under horrible conditions.

If you could visit there you would realize that conditions are such that the country is ripe for communism. If you can get people hungry enough, if they are without shelter, without food, without clothing, you soon get them into a state where they will adopt any ideology. This is particularly dangerous since the communists are so active today in that country.

I have a high regard for those people. During my stay I had the privilege of meeting the King and Queen, who I believe are the only inspiration these people have today, the only encouragement they have to carry on. They are putting up a gallant battle against great difficulties. I think this country should help these unfortunate people to a greater extent than we are doing.

I am convinced that if the members of this House of Commons could see the conditions