

Crisis in Cuba

at the United Nations, could do. There could be a supplementary proposal to set up immediately a United Nations naval inspection force to make sure that any obligation of this kind, undertaken with a view to giving time and opportunity for finding a solution to the basic problem, was carried out. While that is being done a United Nations naval inspection force could be brought into action to reassure people who might question whether the word of a Soviet government should be accepted, even in respect of an obligation of this kind. This would give the kind of reassurance which United Nations inspection and control has given in the past and which I think could be given in the future.

This is one possibility that might improve the situation, and I have no doubt there are others. It is good to know that the Canadian government in this situation is working, as it is working, to bring about a strengthening of peace and security, to remove the awful threat of war. It is good to know that the Canadian government is right behind our friend and neighbour, the United States, in this issue.

Mr. R. N. Thompson (Red Deer): Mr. Speaker, it is indeed reassuring to us in this house, as I believe it is also to all Canadian people and as it will be to the friends of peace across the world, to hear the Prime Minister speak in the terms he has just used. I think one of the basic prerequisites of peace in our time is that we realize and understand the obligation we have to our friends and neighbours. It is only as we stand together with those who hold the same ideals and cherish the same way of freedom that we have in this country that we can have any hope of standing against the onslaught of communism in our time.

There can be no compromise between right and wrong; let us understand that. Coexistence with communism, in the end, means submission. But the objective of submission held by the ideological forces which oppose us at this time is not to be gained through the use of force, even as a bully in a school yard attempts to gain his way by force over his school mates. It is to be gained through a neutralizing of resistance, through passiveness. I believe there is no intolerance so vicious and so strong in reaching its objective as the intolerance of neutrality. I am pleased to hear the leader of the government, the Prime Minister, speak as he has spoken in this regard. The brain washing technique reaches its objective through the neutralizing of resistance so far as the mental attitudes of its victims are concerned.

Let us remember that we are a nation. We are a sovereign nation, a nation that has every right to be proud of its heritage. We are a nation that today has its responsibility, a responsibility which will increase with every passing day in all the tomorrows. This does not mean hostility or an attitude of contentiousness toward those who are on the other side of the fence.

I believe we as Canadians have a great potential to take a quiet, determined stand on what we know is right, and for which the world today looks in its quest for peace. I am also sure we all agree that the efforts being put forward at present by the United Nations are most important. It is again reassuring to know that our delegation at the United Nations is doing everything within its power to further the action taken by the United Nations and the influence which the United Nations can have at this time.

In addition to the direct approach of the United Nations, which is now taking place, there is also a real opportunity for us to use our influence among those nations which may not be committed in the same way we are. Many of us individually probably have the opportunity to do this in what may seem to be little ways, but as a nation we have a great opportunity. Let us remember that the cost of friendship is friendliness, and friendliness is a force we must use at every opportunity.

It is also gratifying to note the unanimity that has been expressed through the organization of American states, and I suggest to the government that this is an ideal time for us to take our stand with our neighbours in this hemisphere and become a participating member in that organization. Certainly the first step could be taken in that regard by very determinedly making our own influence felt and moving in that direction now.

Let us just not say we are backing the United States and then sit down, pat ourselves on the back and think we have done something. We as Canadians have respect for our own sovereignty, and we support the United States as our friends and best neighbours. We do not do so as a vassal state or as a weak neighbour. We do it because we are Canadians, citizens of the sovereign state of Canada. Let us stand together in this house as Canadians. Let us stand together on our policy as Canadians, remembering that we do not have to bend ourselves to all the whims of those who are much more powerful than we are. Let us remember that we have an opportunity to give leadership at this time and, as the leader of the official opposition stated, perhaps it takes a crisis like this to bring out that leadership. Today the world is looking for leadership, leadership other than that