

Supply—External Affairs

preserved, when the fear and the threat of potential war are removed? What is being done to meet the offensive on the part of the U.S.S.R. whereby all over the world the U.S.S.R. has salesmen who combine the purchase and sale of goods and merchandise with political infiltration? These are questions that are of immediate moment, for in the last nine months the U.S.S.R. has entered into 39 trade agreements in all parts of the world wherein the profit of the balance sheet has been secondary to the profit of submerged souls in the nations that are at the moment beneficiaries of economic assistance.

In his remarks I think the minister gave a strong word of warning to those who believe that all is changed and fear is generally removed. He mentioned the captive peoples, a matter of tremendous interest to many Canadians of various racial origins. Not one word has been uttered by Khrushchev or Bulganin that in any way proclaims liberty to captive peoples or to those imprisoned or in slave camps. The dinner in London showed the attitude of the U.S.S.R. When Khrushchev was asked to free 170 social democrats whose only offence was that they did not agree with the U.S.S.R. and its system Khrushchev replied with great heat, "Never, never, never."

Is there anything to indicate at all so far as the U.S.S.R. is concerned that free elections are going to be given to the Balts, to the Ukrainians, to the Poles, to the other captive peoples? Khrushchev said in February at the meeting of the Congress that these peoples loved the freedom of the U.S.S.R. No, there is no suggestion of remorse on the part of Khrushchev or Bulganin for their terrible wrongs and there is no hope expressed of the possibility of freedom being given to these peoples or the opportunity of free elections.

I was very much struck by one expression that the minister used. He said that nowhere in the world had any nation voted itself by the ballot into communism. Until the U.S.S.R. expresses its remorse and accompanies this expression of remorse by actual action which will enable those people behind the iron curtain to look forward to the day when freedom may be theirs, we have a right to look with great suspicion upon the spurious offers of warmhearted international co-operation. What should we do? There are many who say that in view of the change from emphasis on warlike production to economic competition there should be considerable reductions in military strength. That view is held throughout the free nations. Sometimes one is apt to forget, however, in holding that view that the U.S.S.R., while always protesting its belief in disarmament, has

under arms today four and a half million men in its army, a million and a half in its air force and a million in the navy and that during the last year it has increased the number of its submarines from 420 to 450.

However, even in the face of that the Prime Minister of Britain indicated last Monday that there had been such a change of attitude that there must come reconsideration of the question of the numbers in the armed forces of the several countries joined together in freedom. Sir Anthony Eden said that the United Kingdom will not make any sudden or abrupt decision which might throw the whole military gear of our western unity into confusion, but he did state that the time has come for a reappraisal of our situation among the free nations. Within the limitations that security demands, would the minister say what is being done in this regard in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization? What happened at the last meeting of the NATO security committee with regard to this question? This matter is of paramount importance, for as long as our expenditures for military defence continue at their present heights to too great an extent the free nations find themselves in a position where they are unable to compete against the economic offensive of the U.S.S.R.

The U.S.S.R. can compete in commodity markets because price is of no consequence. The price at which it sells in order to compete successfully involves no fears for the U.S.S.R. The price which the U.S.S.R. is prepared to pay for cotton, wheat, rubber or other strategic products has had an effect in various parts of the world where these products are in surplus—I refer to products other than wheat in this regard—of undermining the determination of those nations to stand in resistance against the advance of communism. It is one o'clock.

The Deputy Chairman: I should point out to the hon. member for Prince Albert at this time that he has spoken for more than 30 minutes, but of course with the unanimous consent of the committee he will be permitted to conclude his remarks this afternoon.

At one o'clock the committee took recess.

AFTER RECESS

The committee resumed at 2.30 p.m.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Chairman, at the time of the adjournment, I was summarizing the representations that I had to make. I had covered the questions of the need for maintaining military strength and for enlarging and expanding the concept of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. I had also dealt