

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS IN PARLIAMENT

Statements of Government Policy

The purpose of this section is to provide a selection of statements on external affairs by Ministers of the Crown or by their parliamentary assistants. It is not designed to provide a complete coverage of debates on external affairs taking place during the month.

On January 15, in the reply to a request by Mr. Croll (L-Spadina) for enlightenment on "the implications of recent signs of growing anti-Semitism in the Soviet Union and the satellite countries in Eastern Europe", Mr. Pearson (Secretary of State for External Affairs) said:

... The ominous and familiar pattern which seems to be developing within the Soviet world is a matter which must be viewed with deepest anxiety — especially, if I may say so, by citizens of the Jewish faith in Canada and other countries. Communist action against Jews has been recently highlighted in the purge in Czechoslovakia. There have been indications that similar purges may be in the making in other satellite capitals. The news from Moscow that six Jewish doctors have been arrested in that city, charged with fantastic and obviously trumped-up crimes, fits into the same pattern. There has not yet been time for the Department of External Affairs to receive sufficient information on this latest development to make possible a balanced assessment of its probable implications. That it may prove to be a very serious matter indeed is, I think, obvious to all of us.

Terrible atrocities stemmed from unbridled anti-Semitism in Nazi Germany. It would be a great tragedy and crime if the rulers of Communist Russia were now planning to revive this dark and evil force from the past and to make use of it for their own ends.

UNITED NATIONS ESSAY CONTEST

The United Nations Department of Public Information has announced plans for its annual essay contest for members of non-governmental organizations collaborating with the United Nations.

The contest is open to members between the ages of 20 and 35 who are nationals of UN member countries, except the United States, or of countries administered by a member state.

Candidates may choose between two subjects: "United Nations Technical Assistance and Peace", or "The Role of Non-Governmental Organizations in the Implementation of the Principles of the United Nations." The essays may be written in the candidates' mother tongue.

The winners will be offered a month's stay at UN Headquarters in New York, in September-October 1953, with their living expenses and travel paid for by the UN.

Ten prizes will be awarded, no more than one to the same country. One prize will be reserved for a member of an association of a non-member state of the United Nations if an essay of sufficient quality is received.

The essays will be examined by national organizing committees, and the two best entries from each country will be judged by an international panel consisting of officials of the UN Department of Public Information and experts in the field of international education. Entries must reach the national organizing committees before May 1, 1953, and the prize winners will be announced before June 20, 1953. Complete rules for the contest may be secured from the Department of Public Information United Nations, New York, N.Y.