

External Affairs

of the world and at the Far East. Russian successes in the launching of sputniks and the lunik, and her adventures into planetary space, indicate quite clearly that this country has the know-how and the productive capacity to turn out destructive weapons just as effectively as our friends to the south.

The successful testing of ICBM's and the prospect that they will soon be produced by the Soviet union in operational numbers, according to the best information we can get, makes any theory of dependence upon massive retaliation as a basis for negotiation very shaky indeed, in our opinion. I might say here that I was very pleased to hear the remarks made by the leader of the official opposition on this subject.

From a longer term point of view, perhaps an even more significant development of recent years has been the emergent industrial development of China. While China offers no military threat at the moment, no one who has viewed her development can deny that she may well become one of the great industrial powers of the future. Clearly this development calls for a re-thinking in the field of international relations such as we have not been forced to undertake since the end of world war II.

No doubt these developments are the important ones if one is pessimistic enough to believe that the major issues of the world must be settled by negotiations based on armed strength. However, there are other developments, I am glad to say, which indicate that both sides are more interested at the present time in a different kind of battle. I think we should promote this interest. The Soviet union appears increasingly concerned in developing its industrial potential in order to catch up with the United States in the field of economic production. That country, too, appears to be showing an increasing interest in international economic competition. We in this group hope that co-existence and competition can be developed on this basis.

The western powers, on the other hand, appear, especially on the Berlin and German question, to be willing to consider a more flexible approach. If this greater flexibility on the part of the west can be broadened to include a serious re-examination of the problem of world economic development as an alternative to continued military strength we may truly be on the way to a new and more hopeful era in international relations.

Mr. Speaker: I am sure it is a little difficult to hear the hon. member while so many conversations are going on. I wonder whether hon. members on my right would moderate their tone.

[Mr. Herridge.]

Mr. Herridge: In summary, in our opinion, three things are clear as a result of any study of international developments:

1. The power to destroy is now so great on both sides that it is no longer possible for one side to depend upon superior strength alone as an effective deterrent.

2. This development, coupled with an increased emphasis on economic competition, may well have led to a genuine desire on the part of both power blocs to approach problems more flexibly.

3. The present international situation and these developments offer a new opportunity for socialists, like thinking people and genuine Liberals to express their ideas with emphasis on the possibilities for peaceful negotiations based on a reconsideration of the circumstances today which, as the Leader of the Opposition has pointed out in dealing with one or two aspects on international affairs, have been quite numerous in the last two or three years.

To that end I advance in my remarks during this debate the policy and views of the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation. I want to emphasize that. The minister suggested there should be positive proposals made with respect to the solution of international problems. I aim to place before the house a few positive proposals that the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation group in this house has to make toward the solution of international problems.

I must say first of all that we continue our whole-hearted support of the United Nations. Before proceeding I might also comment that we wish to congratulate our permanent staff at the United Nations. We believe that throughout the years they have done a splendid job. I had the opportunity of being there for about one month during December of 1956 and I did all I could to learn what happened in the general assembly and the various committees. I attempted to take full advantage of what I considered an excellent opportunity. I feel that only those who have attended the United Nations and listened to the debates in the general assembly and in the committees fully realize the tiring nature of these continuing talks on international affairs under what are at times very frustrating conditions. The work done throughout the years by our permanent representatives at the United Nations deserve the thanks of the Canadian people for their constant attention to a duty that requires continuous application, constant study and, shall I say, an abnormal degree of human patience.

In my opinion the value of the United Nations has been re-emphasized by events of the past year. I should take this opportunity