

*External Affairs*

The hon. gentleman raised one or two specific points. I have not had time to look into all aspects of them, but I have had time to look into one or two and I should like to deal with them at this time; I may have an opportunity later to deal with the others. He felt that the C.B.C. international service broadcasts to Italy during the elections were not entirely suitable for the situation which Italy was facing at that time. The elections in Italy to which the hon. gentleman was referring took place, I think, in April, 1948; but the C.B.C. international service did not begin its broadcasts to Italy until December, 1949. And so I am at a loss to know what broadcast—there may have been some—the hon. gentleman was referring to.

I should also like to point out in regard to suspicion which has been attached to certain members in this service that every employee of the international service of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation is very carefully screened indeed. Mention was made of one employee, I think his name was Mr. Dudak, who was alleged to be a communist. It was stated by the hon. leader of the opposition in regard to this man that he is now engaged with the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation's international service. I believe Mr. Dudak was an editor of a Slovak newspaper in Canada, a free lance journalist. It is true that he was taken on the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation's international service for a time. He was investigated immediately after the *coup d'état* in Czechoslovakia. My information is that he has ceased to be an employee of the international service of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation since April, 1948.

A good many other questions arose during the course of our discussion. The hon. member for Peel (Mr. Graydon) dealt with the question of the St. Lawrence seaway. He expressed his own anxiety that this seaway should be commenced and brought to completion—an anxiety which we all share. More than one representative of the government has expressed that feeling recently. We want to see this enterprise brought to completion as a power and navigational project by the co-operation of the two governments most concerned; but we want to see it completed. If it cannot be completed on an international basis, naturally we shall have to examine the situation and see what other way it might be done. In discussing this matter the hon. member for Peel asked whether there were any treaty obligations which would prevent our charging discriminatory tolls on non-Canadian vessels as a way to pay the cost of construction of the canal and the power installations, if they were a Canadian enterprise exclusively. There are, Mr. Speaker,

[Mr. Pearson.]

no treaty obligations binding on Canada which would be an obstacle to the imposition of tolls on Canadian canals in the great lakes-St. Lawrence system. There are treaty provisions, however, which affect Canada's ability to establish toll schedules discriminating between ships of Canada and those of another country, or between the ships of different foreign countries; so, as I understand, discriminatory tolls would not be possible.

During our discussion, Mr. Speaker, a good many members of the house made reference to international relief and rehabilitation problems, more particularly with reference to the Colombo plan and to famine assistance for India. I announced in this house not so very long ago that the government would ask parliament to appropriate \$25 million as its contribution to the first year of the plan, provided that it was clear that other contributing countries would make appropriate contributions so that the broad objectives of the plan might be realized. Since that time we have been taking steps to make arrangements with recipient countries for the purpose of ensuring that so far as Canada is concerned the momentum of the plan is sustained.

The Colombo report contains in its appendices lists of projects for financing under the plan; and without waiting for the working out of the details of the plan, indeed without waiting for the plan to come into operation, we have asked the Indian and Pakistan governments to send over technically qualified representatives to discuss with our officials on a bilateral basis the projects in which we might assist, having in mind those items which Canada is best fitted to undertake; and in this connection we are doing all the preparatory work that we can to keep this movement going.

In the broader field of technical assistance we have played, I think, a useful part. We have participated, either through the headship of, or membership in, technical missions, in United Nations missions to Bolivia, Ethiopia, Burma, Colombia, Egypt and India, and the filling of requests for technicians received from Libya, the Philippines, Indonesia and Ceylon under the United Nations program is now currently under consideration; but it is not of course under present circumstances very easy to find suitable Canadian technicians for this purpose.

No technicians have yet been supplied under the Colombo plan, but approximately 50 requests have been received from India, Pakistan and Ceylon, and are now being examined by the technical assistance service.