

way out of the deadlock. I therefore repeat that in this search, which is literally one for survival, we must keep open every road, every by-path and every trail which may lead us to the objective we all so ardently desire to reach. But we must, at the same time, take every necessary measure, moral, economic and military, to defend ourselves collectively against aggression from those reactionary subversive forces which have hitherto blocked the road to peace.

...A discussion on external affairs was initiated in the house last Friday on a motion to go into supply. The discussion was not completed on Friday evening, and therefore this motion [to refer the estimates of the Department of External Affairs to the appropriate Standing Committee of the House] will give hon. members a further opportunity to discuss our external affairs generally, if they so desire. It will also give me the opportunity, I hope, one of which I am now taking advantage, to deal with some of the points raised last Friday, and to answer some of the questions addressed to the government at that time. I hope it will also give me an opportunity to clear up some of the confusion and misconceptions which I think might be created by some of the statements then made.

The hon. member for Peel (Mr. Graydon), in his interesting contribution to this debate, said that in discussions of foreign affairs the dice, in a sense, were loaded against speakers on the opposition side of the house because, naturally, they did not have access to all the confidential information at the disposal of the government. Of course, in a sense that is true, and up to a point must necessarily be true. But we do try to keep the house as fully informed as possible about these matters. When there are questions of very general interest and of great importance, I think it would be quite proper for leaders of the opposition parties to receive confidential information from government members on those questions; and if there are questions of a kind which preoccupy leaders of opposition parties or other hon. members, I hope I may be able to show to them confidential information bearing on these matters.

So far as loading the dice is concerned, I would only say that in the discussion we have already had the leader of the opposition (Mr. Drew) spent a good deal of time dealing with the situation in China and the recognition or non-recognition of the communist government in that country. I would point out that we had already supplied him with a memorandum which included a great deal of confidential and, in fact, top-secret information on that subject--a procedure which I think it was proper for us to follow.

The hon. member for Peel stated once again that it was time we told the House of Commons and country more about the policies of the government in matters of external affairs. The graphic expression he used was that we should roll up the blinds in the East Block. I am not quite sure what he meant by that, but I hope he will take the opportunity to go into the matter in a little more detail, possibly at the hearings before the committee--because, so far as I am aware, there is no foreign office in any democratic government that makes more information available to the public and to parliament than we do. Not only are we willing to roll up the blinds, but, on appropriate occasions, we shall be happy to open the windows of the East Block as well, even though it may mean that at times we will find ourselves sitting in a draft.

In the statement he made last Friday evening concerning