

The Address—Mr. Diefenbaker

bring into existence a realization that economic co-operation must be achieved.

There is a new spirit of co-operation. It is significant and a mark of the degree of confidence which exists among the member nations that representatives of three NATO countries, the United States, the United Kingdom and France, are at this moment acting as spokesmen for the alliance in the conduct of preparatory talks with the soviet government. As to the prospects of a meeting at the summit I do not think it can be said that the path is clearer or the gradient any less steep as a result of the preparatory talks that have taken place. On the other hand real progress depends on careful detailed preparation and that is the stage through which we are now slowly moving toward, I hope, an eventual decision.

As far as the west is concerned, I am in agreement with my hon. friend that we should take every opportunity to probe new openings. Our philosophy, as we affirmed after the NATO meeting in Copenhagen, is a belief in the principle of negotiation and a desire to put that principle into practice. But you cannot negotiate and you cannot achieve successful negotiations unless you discover something of mutual advantage between the negotiating parties and that is very difficult having regard to the negotiations that have been taking place over the years.

On May 9 on behalf of our country I sent a letter to Mr. Khrushchev in which I said that I was disturbed and disappointed—and I repeat that in this house—by the attitude of the Soviet Union in recent debates in the security council and particularly in the imposition of that veto by the U.S.S.R. in reference to the United States proposal which indicates very strongly that the hopes of mankind are not to be materially enhanced by the recent stand in that direction by the U.S.S.R. I think Canada has taken a very advanced stand in this regard. The U.S.S.R. contends that the northern Arctic areas are being used for aggressive purposes potentially as against the Soviet union.

We do not want to operate on a unilateral basis but if the U.S.S.R. does not wish to accept the reasonable proposition offered by the United States and the other free world nations of a large area being available to examination, we in Canada, having sovereignty over large areas of the Arctic, have gone as far as to indicate that if the U.S.S.R. should be similarly minded we would render available for ground or aerial examination and inspection the areas of northern Canada. If the U.S.S.R. had any foundation for its contention that the United States was acting

aggressively in the north, I think it would have accepted immediately any offer of such examination, particularly if its own areas are free from activities of an aggressive nature.

We can deal with these matters at greater length when another debate takes place. In the meantime there is one reference I wish to make. Today the Minister of Finance tabled the estimates. There is an item to be found on page 63 and amplified on page 447 that I feel deserves reference at this time. It is an item of \$150,000 involving preparatory work not within the fields of particular departments on the subject of emergency defence measures. My hon. friend knows, of course, that during the days when he occupied the position of secretary of state for external affairs there was activity in this direction. He knows that consideration was being given to the necessary measures that would have to be taken in order to carry on government in this country in the event that war should occur and to look after the special needs of the people as well as the direction of the armed forces. Such work is an essential complement to that of our defence services in maintaining a state of readiness as a part of the policy of deterrent strength to resist any possible aggression.

During the days that he occupied that office the preparatory work went no farther than certain advance thinking and paper work. It has now been considered necessary to make further provision. If a major war should occur this continent would likely be under heavy attack. The war will reach maximum intensity almost immediately and certainly in the civilian field as in the military we shall not have time to make our preparations then, and I want to emphasize this. While the previous government made plans, the time has now come when the various departments of government operating in this connection must proceed to act, not, I want to emphasize, because there is any increased danger of war but simply because of the fact that questions will be asked as to why it is necessary to expend that amount of money on the item in question.

Again I reiterate that we are not taking this action because we feel war is any more likely than it has been in recent years, but as a result of these conditions it is necessary to expand our work in the preparation of civilian war measures. As my hon. friend knows, much of this has gone on in the various departments and agencies of government as part of their regular duties. The staff of the privy council office has in the past and since this government came into power been responsible for co-ordinating this work and