

The Address—Mr. Dufresne

important debate by discussing the situation in the Middle East. On the government's side, we have heard speeches from the right hon. Prime Minister (Mr. St. Laurent) and from the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Pearson), while on the side of the opposition, several members more qualified than I am in the matter have spoken, and others will probably follow. I shall therefore limit my few remarks to the recent tragic events in Hungary.

Mr. Speaker, the free world was horrified during the past few weeks by Russia's cowardly and treacherous attack against the valorous Hungarian people. In Canada, we live in a country where liberty and democracy still have a meaning. We have been particularly dismayed on reading about the bloody events which have happened to this heroic people whom the Russians are trying to destroy because it has long rejected communist slavery.

I believe that we cannot but be moved by the nameless atrocities indulged in by those who would like to destroy forever the freedom of nations and to trample people under their infernal domination.

When the happy survivors of this agonizing drama and this indescribable butchery will be able to tell us in detail all that the Hungarian people have had to suffer in those tragic weeks, I am convinced that Russia will go down in history as the most barbarian and the most dissolute nation that we have ever known.

I hope that those who offered themselves as victims for the cause of freedom have not done so in vain and that their supreme sacrifice will serve as a salutary lesson to all those who possess enough influence to achieve, in all the countries of the world, the restoration of true peace and of human freedom.

I do not think it is necessary to remind this house of the different phases of the Hungarian revolt, and of the bloody results that followed. But let me say this. The military intervention of the Kremlin was aimed not only at preventing the formation of a democratic Hungarian government, but more particularly at destroying all those who believe in the divine power of a Supreme Being.

On that subject, I would like to repeat a few sentences from the speech I had the honour to make in Paris last Wednesday, November 21, at the second conference of the

parliamentary members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

This is what I said:

The greatest danger facing us today, the free people of the West, is to witness the realization of the ambition of the communist conspirators of the Kremlin, which is to conquer us and to destroy our democratic freedoms. They seek to destroy our basic principles: patriotism, loyalty, family life. Above all they wish to remove from the face of the earth the teaching and practice of religion, which is the very basis of our civilization. The basis of our life as Christians is the worship of a Supreme Being. You will understand that when I speak of "Christians" I refer to the various teachings concerning a supreme deity—by whatever name it is called by our various peoples—imply, in their broadest acception, all the virtues that in my own country and many others are designated by the word "Christianity". This general term comprises the two great principles: "Love one another" and "Do what is just". It is the cornerstone of my own faith, a faith which is shared by a large number of citizens of those countries represented today in this assembly.

Quite probably, it is also the cornerstone of other beliefs prevailing among us. And that cornerstone of all our beliefs is the basis of our free and democratic way of life.

Because religion is the foundation of our civilization, the Soviets want to destroy it in all our countries, and wipe it off the face of the earth. That is the foundation which, as we have seen, was purposely destroyed in Hungary in the last few weeks, because the communist conspiracy led the Hungarians to cease loving one another and, instead of love, to kill one another. And, in this same Hungary, those who fought for freedom had nothing but their naked flesh to oppose to Soviet steel. Then, when, unavoidably, they were crushed, these soldiers of freedom were deported to Siberia. Do the Soviets respect the religious principle of "Doing what is just", when they intervene with force in the affairs of another country?

In this cold and brutal war against christianity, NATO acts as a shield against Soviet imperialism. I believe that NATO is the only organization in the world to offer this protection. The United Nations has failed to halt the progress of communism. Individually, our nations, lacking unity among themselves, have likewise failed to stem the tide of communism. Wherever we look in the world today, we see that communism is openly trying to permeate everywhere, by force or otherwise. Even in the Middle East, under the very eyes of the United Nations cease fire commission, Russia made plans, and prepared to bring in a vast new territory within its sphere of influence.

In the world today prospects are deceiving and alarming. But there is one and only one shining star before us. It is NATO. Not only is there no communist infiltration in NATO, but in several of those nations that make up that great alliance, communism is rapidly dying out. In many of our countries, citizens who have long been active in local communist cells, now disillusioned, are resigning from the party.

That is what I said at that time.

Mr. Speaker, with the unanimous consent of the house, I could finish my remarks in about three minutes—

Mr. Dupuis: What does the hon. member for Quebec West think about the intervention of England and France in the Middle East?