

Russia and certain other world nations did in the particular circumstances. There is the further major question of whether we are just at the beginning of a world struggle, or at the end of one. That question causes deep concern to a great many people.

There are in our country people descended from Scottish, English, French, Dutch and many other racial origins. I took the trouble the other day to look into the ancestral heritage of my sons. Their great-grandmother on one side was born and educated in France, and the one on the other side was born and educated in Ireland. Their grandmothers were born and educated in Scotland and their mother comes from Scottish parentage. I give that as an example of the reason for the interest on the part of Canadian people in the background of the problems that affect other nations today.

I am thinking also of the people in Quebec, whose ancestors for the most part are French, although one finds in that province many people who spring from Irish, English and Scottish parentage.

If we go back in history we learn that during the past two or three hundred years Great Britain and France have been the outstanding nations of the world. True, they have at times stood on opposite sides, but they have been outstanding in the conduct of world affairs. For instance, at the outbreak of the Second World War it did not take Churchill long to go to France and assure that country that Britain would join it in its fight for freedom and liberty. He did not do that because of any false modesty, but because he knew the French people, knew that they loved their freedom of religion, of language and of assembly as dearly as did Britain, and that they were determined to stand against the Nazi ideology of life.

A similar situation exists today. But into the world of today has been thrust an element that even the best of us, men of the strongest courage, cannot cope with, and we cannot estimate what the future holds for any of us.

Those of us who have had the pleasure and honour of attending at the United Nations Assemblies, no matter in what capacity, have learned that Russia herself—her satellites do not count—seems to be unable to convince other people that she is genuinely in favour of doing the things that the free world thinks ought to be done. Russia cannot be led to believe that her word ought to be as good as her bond, that she should encourage freedom and allow men and women of all classes the right to lead a normal family life as people do in other parts of the world. Apparently the extension of communism depends on suppressing these things.

Now, let us look at the situation in the Middle East. What were the conditions there before Britain and France moved in at all?

It must be remembered that for many hundreds of years Israel had been occupied by the Arabs, but they were pushed out, largely through the efforts of the United States at the time of the settlement, when the Israeli people were put in. Now, it must be admitted that the Israelis did have a claim on that country, for it was their former home. But the Arabs will not admit it and do not want the Israelis to stay there. Then apparently the United States has refused to acknowledge its obligation to maintain things in the Middle East, things that only she and Russia can take care of. We might as well look the situation straight in the face and admit that a great world struggle is going on and may go on for many years to come. I cannot help thinking of the message General Gruenther gave us here in this very building, in the Railway Committee room, a year or two ago. In reply to the question "What would happen if Russia attacked?" he said, "In half an hour our bombers, loaded with bombs, would be up in the air and on their way to bomb Russia". He repeated that warning here the other day. We have not got over that feeling.

And now this is what we are up against: a dictatorship was established in Egypt. Nasser is a dictator. I say that without fear of contradiction. We know now that he hoped that the United States and Great Britain would lend his government the money with which to build a dam across the Nile and make more water available to produce cheap food in his country. I have no first-hand knowledge of why the United States refused the loan. It may be because it found out that, behind its back, Egypt was dealing with one of the Russian satellites for the purchase of war materials—which in fact were provided, and with which Nasser intended to assert what he thought were his rights against Israel. I am not here to defend Israel. But if Israel, which was established by the free nations of the world, presents any problem, it is for those nations to find some way of dealing with it in the light of their own best judgment; it is not for Russia to dictate what shall be done.

As soon as the United States found out that Egypt had acquired these armaments, it ceased to supply her with money. What happened then? Israel attacked. I do not know just why, but I do know that had I been in their place I would have attacked too,—

Hon. Mr. Roebuck: Hear, hear.