

*The Address—Mr. Drew*

calling for legislative action of this kind. I must say that it is a hopeful sign that the government has acted upon this important suggestion coming from a member of the opposition.

We all recognize that the speech from the throne is in fact prepared by the government. For that reason, every statement it contains is open to question and should be questioned if its intention is not clear.

We are told that "there are signs of a lessening of the danger of an outbreak of war on a global scale". I believe that the government will be performing its duty to this house and to the people of Canada by giving us the facts upon which such a statement is based. I believe that the government is in fact under an obligation to the members of this house and to the people of Canada to give us those facts. The need for this information is emphasized by the fact that it was only last Friday when the distinguished secretary of state for the United States made a speech in Ottawa, in which he appeared to say the very opposite. He was, of course, speaking for his own country when he said that there was great danger in the fact that people were being lulled into a false sense of security. Of necessity, however, his remarks apply with equal force to Canada. Every Canadian, and particularly those who have husbands, sons, brothers, relatives or close friends serving in Korea or elsewhere outside of Canada, would welcome this assurance if it is well founded, and all Canadians would be glad to know that such a statement is justified.

Because it has already been so freely interpreted in the press and elsewhere as an indication that there may be reason for lessening our defence efforts, I believe it is of supreme importance that the government leave no doubt about the facts on which this statement is based and also clearly indicate the inference that is to be drawn from this statement. I say that because every hon. member of this house will have read interpretations of that statement in the speech from the throne which convey the impression that it is a preliminary to an announcement that it would be possible to diminish our defence preparation. I recognize that the government is not responsible for such interpretations as may be placed upon any statement by the press of this country; but nevertheless I suggest that, since responsible newspapers have placed this interpretation upon it, it will be helpful if we are given further information.

We meet, in fact, at a time of increasing international tension. The decision to protect Southern Korea from communist aggression

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was a great milestone in the long struggle to preserve peace and freedom by collective action. Heavy though the sacrifices have been, those who look to the free nations for protection have had their hopes and confidence sustained. It is likely that the firm stand of the western nations in Korea has removed doubts which otherwise might have led the men in the Kremlin to engage in dangerous adventures which could only result in a general war.

While Korea has drawn unexpectedly large forces from different parts of the world, and mainly from the United States, to hold a line which approximates the division which existed since the second world war between North and South Korea, the entry of China into that struggle has also engaged the activity of most of their well-trained troops who might otherwise have been embarking on further acts of aggression elsewhere.

A great principle has been upheld. The moral convictions of the western nations have been demonstrated. The communists have been left in no doubt as to the superior quality of the weapons and the military equipment produced by the western nations. On the other hand, this has been both a training ground and a testing ground for both Russia and China. Without sacrificing any of their own men in a war for which they are responsible, the rulers of Russia have gained useful information with regard to the fighting equipment with which they have supplied the Chinese and have been improving their own armament production as a result of that experience.

This has resulted in the re-equipment of the Russian divisions in Germany and eastern Europe with more modern weapons and machines of war so that the Russian divisions, which present a constant threat to western Europe, are much more powerful from a military point of view than they were at the outbreak of the war in Korea.

Thus the danger is greater if for any reason Russia should decide to embark on a war of aggression. It would be dangerous for anyone to assume, and it would be very wrong for anyone with direct knowledge of the situation to convey the impression, that the land forces of the Atlantic pact community have yet reached the point where they would have any chance at this time of withstanding a major offensive by the immense Russian forces and satellite divisions now deployed throughout eastern Europe.

While the danger has increased, the hope of peace has also increased. That may seem like an anomaly but I suggest that the two go hand in hand. That hope could always