

in my opinion, and I think in the opinion of many, the communist government of China is entirely under military control.

Hon. Mr. David: Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. Turgeon: Anything might happen. To my mind—and I speak humbly as a citizen—there is no reason why any of our democratic countries should jump to conclusions and seek to bring about a general recognition of the communist government of China. But there is every reason why the governments of democratic countries should take all possible steps to make certain that if war does come atomic weapons will not be used—either by others against us or by us against others.

I have pointed out that in my opinion the first barrier to settlement of this problem is the refusal—the unjust refusal, if you wish—of the Soviet Union to participate in any conference at which nationalist China is represented.

Now, before I discuss what I regard as the second barrier, may I express another thought? I have said that I fear there will be another war. But if through a series of conferences the Atomic Energy Commission could bring about some agreement for empowering the United Nations to prevent the use of atomic and hydrogen bombs—I mean a positive and absolute agreement along the lines that the President of the United States and the Prime Ministers of the United Kingdom and of Canada had in mind in 1945, when they urged the nations of the world to agree on making the use of atomic bombs impossible—and if the people of Canada and of all other democratic countries could be given definite assurance that these bombs would not and could not be used in the event of war, then my feeling as to the future would change.

One of the first results of such an agreement would be the elimination of that atmosphere of distrust and suspicion which now pervades all United Nations conferences and causes representatives of one country to doubt the sincerity of other countries' representatives, and in place of suspicion there would be a general feeling of confidence and trust. In short, honourable senators, I believe that the reaching of such an agreement would be the most important step taken since the end of the last war towards the prevention of another war.

I come now to the second great barrier, which is the Soviet Union's stand that to permit the United Nations, through any agency whatever, to make proper inspections and to take any necessary action to prevent the production of atomic and hydrogen bombs for war purposes, would be a breach of sovereignty. Now, if a conclusion could be reached among the great powers—and on account of the conditions in China and the attitude of Russia, I suggest that we should

hold conferences at which China is not represented—if a conclusion could be reached that certain means taken by the United Nations would be successful in preventing the use of these bombs for war purposes, I believe we could convince the Soviet Union and any other country that the employment of such means would not entail any breach of sovereignty.

I do not need to remind the members of this august body that for democratic countries the idea of complete national sovereignty belongs to the ages that are past. It is strange to us, whose allegiance is given directly to His Majesty the King, that the very country which fears a breach of sovereignty should be a communistic country where it is claimed that everything is done by the people and for the people, and where it is also claimed that the capitalism, free enterprise and individual effort of the democracies are symbols of economic slavery. Canada is processing uranium ore at Chalk River and possibly may do so at other places later on, but Canadians would never imagine that the empowering of the United Nations to inspect uranium plants or any other plants in this country would imply a breach of our national sovereignty.

However, since we desire a conference or a series of conferences that might lead to an agreement for preventing the use of atomic and hydrogen bombs, we must make some concession. The concession which I am suggesting is not one that relates to the means to be adopted by the United Nations. I do not suggest simply that the United States be asked to discard the bombs they have on hand. The thought I have in mind is that a concession should be made by our democratic powers which will remove every reason given by the Soviet Union as to why it cannot, or will not, enter into discussions of any nature at which the representative of the present government of China is present.

I wish to quote a short excerpt from a speech delivered last November by our own Minister of External Affairs, the Honourable L. B. Pearson. In discussing the atomic bomb, the minister had this to say:

The problem of atomic energy is such that it seems to me that all of us should seek its solution with humility, as well as with sincerity. If any new proposals are made, or new approaches suggested, that give promise of an effective and agreed solution for this problem, then my government will welcome them and examine them with all the care they will deserve.

It is with that sincerity and humility to which the honourable minister referred that I am today suggesting an acquiescence which would bring about a conference that might be the first necessary step in the prevention of total war. I am placing this suggestion before this honourable house, and on it honourable members will take what action