

*The Address—Mr. Coldwell*

ago I mentioned what I considered to be the valuable job done by Mr. Walter O'Hearn in commenting upon the work of the United Nations, and of course he was maintained there throughout by one of our great daily newspapers, the *Montreal Star*, to which he reported daily. As far as the great co-operative news-gathering agencies of Canada were concerned, however, their representatives were mostly conspicuous by their absence. I regard this as a reflection upon the press of Canada and indeed upon our country generally, because we have a right to expect better service than that from our national news agencies when such difficult and important matters are being considered by the United Nations.

I believe this led to the confusion which I found in the country concerning some of the matters before the United Nations; particularly to confusion in the early fall as to the considerations leading up to the decision by the United Nations to stop the aggression which occurred in Korea last June. Too little information was available to the Canadian people last autumn as these grave events developed. As I have said already, our news came mainly from United States sources. As the Prime Minister (Mr. St. Laurent) has stated, the people of Canada hope that war is neither imminent nor inevitable; but if we should become involved in a major struggle in the months or years ahead I think it is important that our people should understand what has led up to that situation.

I am certain of this, that least of all do the Canadian people want war with the Chinese, whom I think most Canadians regard as a long-suffering, exploited people who are now groping for a better life. That leadership in China has come under communist control is, I think, a graver reflection upon the democracies who, had they taken time by the forelock and pursued essentially different policies a few years ago, might have had the leadership which has been seized by the representatives of the Soviet union in that great country of 450 million people.

For this reason I regret the adoption of the resolution that was passed by the first committee of the United Nations the day before yesterday, and which I believe is before the assembly today. I think a condemnatory resolution of that kind may interfere with the very worth-while further attempts to obtain an immediate cease-fire in Korea. I am also afraid that this resolution having been approved, it will be followed by intensified bitterness and demands for the institution of sanctions which, if approved, I fear will push China more and more into the orbit of the Soviet union.

From what I hear and have read I believe the Secretary of State for External Affairs very largely shares that view. At this point may I congratulate him on his part in endeavouring to continue negotiations, and the Prime Minister on his part in endeavouring to get a clarification of the more recent acceptance of proposals by Peking. At noon today I received my usual airmail copy of the *Manchester Guardian Weekly*, under date of January 25. Its very well informed correspondent in India discusses the situation in Asia and refers particularly to a rising bitterness even on the part of those who have sympathized and been more friendly with Britain and the rest of us in the past few years, because they feel that while we give underground—and I think that is the word that is used—support to India's attempts at further negotiations, we none the less adopt a different attitude in public when an important issue is to be resolved.

My view of the United Nations resolution regarding China, passed a couple of days ago, is pretty well stated in a resolution which was adopted by our C.C.F. national executive over last week end. Since it expresses my own view as well, I should like to put it on the record. It is not long, and reads as follows:

The C.C.F. is opposed to any step at the UN or elsewhere which will place further obstacles in the way of a negotiated settlement in Korea and Asia generally. For this reason it urges the Canadian government—

This, of course, was before the resolution was passed.

—to oppose the U.S. resolution now before the United Nations which would brand the Chinese people's government as an aggressor. The C.C.F. believe that if the UN passed this resolution it would be in danger of sacrificing the friendship of a large proportion of the people of Asia, and of disrupting the unity of the free world.

The C.C.F. does not doubt that the invasion of Korea by the Chinese armies was unjustifiable and contrary to UN policy. But at this moment every effort must be made to prevent a general war. We must not give way to resentment or hysteria, or assume that war is inevitable.

Then it goes on, and I should like to put this on record because I wish to say something about it a little later.

As a further indication of Canada's good will towards the people of Asia, the C.C.F. proposes that the Canadian government make a gift to India of as substantial a quantity of wheat to aid in the alleviation of her grievous famine as transportation facilities will allow.

We recognized it should be noted that there were difficulties in transportation facilities to India.

We believe that the United Nations resolution before the assembly today, and which will undoubtedly be adopted, will make—I do not