

Foreign Policy

war, to bring about peace discussions. The facts are otherwise.

The situation facing the world admittedly is serious, but it is not a situation to which this country has contributed directly except that by being a member of the international community we possibly must bear our share of responsibility for a climate of world opinion that permits the absence of the rule of law two decades after the most terrible experience in human history.

We dedicate ourselves in this country, in so much of our foreign policy to upholding the charter of the United Nations. I agree fully with the Minister of National Defence. Because we have suffered a reverse in peace keeping in the Middle East, that does not mean that the concept of Canadian peace keeping, as proposed and practised by the Canadian government, is invalid. We believe that this is an essential operation for the United Nations and that there will be additional situations which will require the use of UN peace keeping machinery. We still hope that in the Middle East, as I said at the outset, it will be possible for us to establish an international presence through the United Nations for this purpose.

The war in Viet Nam has disturbed the world; of that there can be no doubt. In one sense I think that disturbance represents a growing conviction of men and women everywhere that war as an instrument of national policy is anachronistic and that it has ceased to be a practical way of settling disputes between nations. But it is not our war. We did not cause this war, and the record shows that we are doing everything we can to bring it to an end.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. David Lewis (York South): Mr. Speaker, before dealing with the Middle East and Viet Nam may I say a word about the right hon. gentleman's amendment. During the short time I have been in the house I have learned to admire the right hon. Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Diefenbaker) and to admire particularly his sense of humour. When he suggested that the government was free to accept his amendment I felt he was indulging in his admirable sense of humour. It was perfectly clear when he read the amendment that the government could not accept it. If I might say so without being unkind, even the extreme kindness of the Prime Minister (Mr. Pearson) would not allow him to accept that kind of amendment.

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Mr. Pearson: That was never in my mind.

Mr. Lewis: It is our intention to move a subamendment today, despite the request of the right hon. Leader of the Opposition that we do not do so.

It would be trite to emphasize that we are in an extremely dangerous world situation. Everyone has spoken of it and will continue to speak of it, because the situation is pressing. The tragedy of the present world situation is that as conditions in Europe improved, as the cold war on the European continent receded, as a genuine détente between the Soviet union and the United States as the two major nuclear powers became possible, other parts of the world erupted to threaten the peace of humanity.

Our major difference with the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Martin)—and we have pressed this opinion on the house many times—is that we think the time has come for a country such as Canada to be much more forthright in its public statements of policy and to be much more demanding in public that the United Nations be not destroyed by world powers such as the United States of America which, by what it does in some parts of the world is destroying the effectiveness of the United Nations. It is no longer enough, when the world is on the brink of a third world war, for our Secretary of State for External Affairs to repeat his support for the United Nations, to repeat his desire for an end to the Viet Nam war, to repeat his appeal to the Middle East states for restraint. Such expressions of view by Canada will not be listened to in the present circumstances.

● (5:00 p.m.)

I am confident that the world is now in such danger that it is possible for a country like Canada, precisely because it is not involved in the Viet Nam conflict, precisely because it is not involved in the Middle East in any direct way and precisely because it is recognized throughout the world as a country without imperial or militaristic designs, to play a more effective role. I believe that a forthright call by Canada and forthright criticisms by Canada of the actions of governments, including, if necessary, the actions of officers of the United Nations itself, would help to arouse the kind of world opinion and the kind of unification of the people of the world which alone can stop the obvious drift toward a third world war. I cannot see any hope in the policy which is being pursued if the pressure