

Finally the leader of the opposition made a strong and eloquent appeal against anything which might be interpreted as appeasement of communist aggression. I agree with him, though appeasement is one of those very difficult and dangerous words which can be interpreted in many ways. If by appeasement we mean prejudicing our own security or the security of the democratic world by making extorted and unnecessary concessions to a possible aggressor in the hope that it might keep him quiet; or if we mean assisting, encouraging and strengthening those whom we thought had aggressive designs, then of course I am sure everyone in this house is against appeasement. But it is a dangerous word, which should not be used carelessly. Appeasement is not the same as peace, nor is it the same as a desire for peace.

In his statement last Friday evening the leader of the opposition also said as reported at page 465 of Hansard:

Every word I have spoken is a word to urge upon this government the duty to say in no uncertain terms, no matter what may be said by other governments in the world: "Appeasement is going to go no further; we have learned the lessons of the past and there will be no truck and trade with tyranny of this kind unless and until they are at least prepared to accept the ordinary standards of international conduct."

In my statement I said, as reported at pages 429-30 of Hansard:

So far as Canada is concerned ... there will never be any lack of willingness to search for a solution to this and the other problems which divide us from the communist world.

I suggest there is no contradiction between the two statements. In this connection I referred to the necessity of genuine compromise and accommodation; and I made it abundantly clear, I hope, that the Canadian government was fully aware of the danger of appeasement of the kind I have just indicated, but at the same time was conscious of a duty to keep searching for some way out of the present impasse.

Last Friday the hon. member for Peel spoke in a similar vein, with perhaps fewer qualifications than I gave, when he said, as reported at page 454 of Hansard:

...the most vital job at the hand of every responsible nation of the world today is somehow to find the way to stop the present aimless international drifting...

This, I remind the house, is a quotation from a speech made by the hon. member for Peel.

...which is causing no end of alarm to the ordinary citizens of the world, because they have a revolting fear that a continuation of this squaring off of one group of nations towards another may end in another armed holocaust.

With those words, Mr. Speaker, I entirely agree.

S/A