

countries help the Asian democratic countries in their plans for economic development, in order to relieve the distress and poverty there, on which international communism feeds. Within the measure of its resources Canada should, I think, do its part to help in this great effort to promote human welfare and hence to ensure peace.

There is some discussion going on at present whether the atom bomb should or should not be used against the aggressors in Korea. One consideration in this matter—and an important one—must be the effect of such use on the relations of the Western world with Asia. The military, and others, may argue that the atomic bomb is just another weapon. But, in the minds of ordinary people everywhere in the world, it is far more than that, and its use has acquired an immensely greater significance than any other aspects of war. The anxiety with which the possibility of such use is regarded has been strikingly and increasingly evident of late among our friends in Europe and in Asia. This anxiety is, I think, the main reason for the appeal, even in free countries, of the cynical communist “peace” campaign.

It would be hard to exaggerate the psychological and political consequences of the employment of the bomb, or the threat of its employment, in the present critical situation. The strategic use of the bomb against Chinese cities might conceivably reverse the course of military events in Korea now, but at the cost, possibly, of destroying the cohesion and unity of purpose of the Atlantic community. Certainly its use for a second time against an Asian people would dangerously weaken the links that remain between the Western world and the peoples of the East.

The atomic bomb is the most powerful deterrent element in the arsenal of the free world. But it is universally regarded as the ultimate weapon. It should be treated as such.

There has, of course, been a mass intervention of the Chinese Communists in Korea. In the present critical military situation, those who have their own forces engaged (and this applies, of course, particularly to the United States whose intrepid men are bearing the brunt of this fight) are obviously entitled to have full consideration given to the use of every available means of supporting the ground forces fighting under the United Nations Command. This is natural and inevitable. But, before a decision of such immense and awful consequence for all of us is taken, there should surely be consultation through the U.N., particularly with the governments principally concerned. One of those would be the Canadian Government, which has from the beginning been a partner in the tri-partite development of atomic energy.

It is of supreme importance to the morale and survival of the free peoples that, if war comes, the responsibility should be clearly and inexorably fixed. While there is any chance at all of preventing an extension of the present hostilities, the advantage of using the bomb, or even threatening its use, are, I think, likely to be far outweighed by the reactions among the peoples of the world, and especially the peoples of Asia, which would follow that use.

In the confused and dangerous international situation of today, it is essential to try to see the world steadily, realistically, and as a whole. The obvious Soviet game is to provoke incidents and tensions at various points on the borderlands between the Western world and the Soviet Union and to try to lead us into the trap of concentrating too great a proportion of our limited resources on one or two isolated border points. It is clear that the communists are trying to lead us into this trap in Korea. In order to fight the present war in Korea a large part of the immediately available forces of the West have been committed to that country. If the war in Korea should become a war against China—and I repeat we must do everything within the power of statesmanship to prevent this—it will be difficult to avoid committing an even larger part of Western resources to that war. This would mean that we would be leaving exposed our most important and, in the long run, our most dangerous front, which remains Western Europe. That is still the part of the world where we must concen-