

*External Affairs*

for us definitely the policy the government is following and intends to follow with regard to this whole Middle East situation.

I know the minister analysed the situation pretty well this morning, but he did not commit himself or the government to any procedure for the future. As a consequence of the fact that the government has not seemed to have any policy, we can be excused for thinking it has none. I must say that the lack of ability to lay down and follow without equivocation a definite policy based on high principles always results in moral bankruptcy, and I am afraid that the western nations during the past few months especially have been singularly lacking in the courage and boldness that can only be born of high and honest purpose and strict morality.

I think all the policies of all the governments interested in the Middle East situation have to be measured against the backdrop of communist global strategy, and I would like to take a quick look at that strategy. I believe every thinking person, every person who has studied the evidence of the last few years, must be convinced that it is still Russia's aim to dominate the world and impose communism upon the peoples of the world, either by subversive action and the instruments of the cold war or by force, or a combination of the two. We would be utterly stupid if we failed to keep this world objective in mind.

Russia is becoming daily more conscious of the rising power of another communist state, China. That country is building up very rapidly. Its industrialization program has proceeded with amazing rapidity. No doubt Russia is measuring this fact most carefully, together with the somewhat alarming increase that is taking place in an already overwhelming Chinese population. I believe Russia fears that China will soon outgrow her position as a satellite state, and will once more attempt to spill out over Asia and Europe as orientals did in the middle ages under Genghis Khan.

Russia has four compelling reasons for the earliest possible build-up of her strength and prestige in the Middle East. She does not want to build up only prestige and strength, but every indication points to her determination to possess and control that area, not only for the sake of what is there but also to give her a stepping stone for the eventual encirclement and control of the 200 million people of Africa.

What are these four compelling reasons? Mr. Speaker, I believe that in the first place Russia wants to control the huge oil reserves of the Middle East. Her industrialization program is increasing so rapidly that her

present supplies of oil are going to be completely inadequate in the immediate future. The Middle East offers the best and most accessible source of new supplies. At the same time, Russia realizes that if she gets control of the oil of the Middle East, cutting off that supply to western Europe will unquestionably help to weaken, and possibly destroy, the North Atlantic treaty countries. NATO has been the chief stumbling block in Russia's way for some years in western Europe and she will do anything to destroy it.

The second compelling reason for Russia's effort to build up in the Middle East is that she hopes to be able to destroy American, British and French bases in that area. They constitute an ever-present danger to Russia, because she knows that as long as those bases remain in the hands of the western powers swift retaliation can be launched against Russian states and bases if she should take or provoke aggressive moves of any kind. Russia has made it abundantly clear in her declaration—made on several occasions—of the Middle Eastern policy that she will do everything she can to get these bases out of the hands of the western powers.

Russia and her allies, including Egypt and Syria, are determined to destroy the Bagdad pact because it represents a stumbling block to communist plans in the Middle East. Destruction of this pact would be a means of getting at Turkey, which is a party to the North Atlantic Treaty, and Turkey has about the only stable position in that whole area with the exception of Israel. That, Mr. Speaker, is the third reason.

And, finally, the fourth reason Russia feels compelled to build up in the Middle East and, as I have already said, to encircle and control Africa and its millions of population, is that she fears an eventual contest with China for the leadership of the Asiatic countries and, perhaps, of the communist movements of the world.

Where does President Nasser fit into all this background? What is the secret of his power? I think everybody has been amazed at the speed with which Nasser has put Egypt in the position where she could fling a challenge to the United Nations and to the free nations of the world. There is no questioning the fact that he has thrown down the gauntlet in connection with the Suez canal, the Gaza strip and the gulf of Aqaba. President Nasser has been guilty of the same kind of dissembling utterances and confusing actions that were used by Hitler before the outbreak of the second world war.

It seems perfectly clear, to me at any rate, from his own writings and his own actions