

nation, we shall continue to do everything we can to avert the dangers to which we are exposed.

As far as the last 24 hours are concerned, the main facts are well known to Members of the House. Some Soviet ships have altered course away from Cuba. One Soviet tanker, after having been intercepted by a United States naval ship, was allowed to proceed on its way since it had been satisfactorily established that the cargo was petroleum.

I think we may take encouragement from the restraint being exercised at the moment. However, it would be dangerously premature to assume that the critical phase of the current situation has passed. There are two pressing needs to be met, namely not only to avoid conflict but to find a peaceful solution to this new Soviet challenge.

I think Members of the House are in agreement that the greatest hope of finding such a solution lies in the United Nations. The Acting Secretary-General is to be commended for the speed with which he has acted to discharge the heavy responsibility he bears as the executive head of the UN. His proposal for a standstill is designed to gain the time that is so urgently needed while the search goes forward for some formula which will provide an acceptable solution. His offer of his personal good offices is in the best tradition of his predecessors in that office.

Meanwhile the Security Council is to meet again at four o'clock. There the formal discussions will be resumed. Perhaps by that time the replies of President Kennedy and Chairman Khrushchov will have been received.

There is a debate going on throughout the world regarding the legality of the quarantine measures which the United States has imposed. To my mind such arguments are largely sterile and irrelevant. We have a situation to face. Legalistic arguments, whatever they may be, cannot erase the fact that the Soviet Union has posed a new and immediate threat to the security not only of the United States but of Canada as well.

Chairman Khrushchov's apologists say "What is the difference between Soviet missile bases in Cuba and United States bases on the periphery of the Soviet Union?" The United States bases abroad have been installed only in response to the threatening pressures from the Soviet Union, and have never been concealed from the public. The West, moreover, has refrained in recent years from any move to upset the world balance. There are countries in all parts of the world in which nuclear weapons could have been installed by the West. A deliberate decision was made not to do so. We in Canada have shown responsibility in this connection in order to avoid the proliferation of these dangerous weapons throughout the world. . . . To compare the Western activities with the provocative, clandestine arming of Cuba is to ignore the calculated restraint which has characterized Western policy. In this light, the call for the dismantling of these new, threatening facilities in Cuba is not unreasonable. It is the Soviet Union itself which has disturbed the balance, and it is for it and Cuba to restore that balance.