

*Committee on Defence Expenditures*

the current session there will be sufficient positive results from the meetings of this committee to convince all members on both sides of the house that this is a most desirable move. I am assuming that the wording of the motion means that all expenditures which have been actually made and all commitments undertaken up to the date on which the committee first meets from time to time will be under review by that committee.

I do not propose to discuss the terms of reference because I am satisfied that so long as the committee or the majority of the committee carry forward the intentions expressed by the Prime Minister the terms of reference will be adequate. I think it is appropriate to say that they result from discussions which took place between the Prime Minister, the leaders of other parties in the house and myself. I think it is appropriate that we consider the situation with which we are confronted at the time this motion is adopted. It is only to the extent that we recognize the importance of this committee and the importance of the information which it can obtain that the functions of the committee will be viewed in a true perspective in relation to the work it is intended to do.

We are discussing the problems of defence and a survey of the expenditures and commitments for defence in the most ominous atmosphere since the closing days of the last world war. It is only necessary to read the reports of the speeches in Paris on Monday and Tuesday to realize that the representatives of the western nations are under no illusions as to the seriousness of the situation. When the leading western powers put forward a practical and workable plan for disarmament, which in itself would give the first real hope of lasting peace, Vishinsky's response was that he could hardly sleep for laughing the night after he received that proposal. If the circumstances were not so grave one could treat a statement of that kind more lightly, because it is the conduct of a boastful child rather than the calculated representations of a powerful nation. In days like these, laughter of that kind can carry Mr. Vishinsky to the same unhappy end to which Hitler's laughter carried him if this course of conduct is followed. The very great tragedy, and the tragedy which none of us can hide from our eyes, is that if insanity of that kind should once again bring world disaster it will bring death and slaughter, not to those who have started it, but to scores of millions of innocent human beings in Russia as well as in the western world.

If Vishinsky did laugh that night, and I doubt it very much, he was laughing at the

fondlest hopes of the masses of Russia, just as much as he was laughing at the earnest endeavours of the western powers to offer a workable plan which would make this the twilight before the dawn, rather than the twilight before a dark and terrible night. We know that there is only one thing which will impress the men of the Kremlin; that statement has been made over and over again. I do not think it could be made too often. It is a certainty that quick, overwhelming and crushing retribution would carry with it the same punishment that was meted out to the murderers at Nuremberg. It is the only thing which will deter those men who have seen aggression pay off on such a scale in these last six years.

There has just been made available for public reading the authoritative book on the armies of the world which ranks with "Jane's Fighting Ships," an authoritative record of the navies of the world. I am referring to Brassey's "Armed Services Year Book", which gives us the figures that have been prepared from the most reliable sources available to that extremely reliable publication. According to this book, dealing only with the members of the army as distinguished from the air force and navy, we are told that there are available for the Russian army today 14,800,000 trained men who can be put into the field within sixty days. This figure is far higher than the last estimates of an official character which were furnished to the world.

While it is dealing primarily with the army, the same authoritative book tells us that the Russian navy now has 380 submarines, with a minimum of 120 more under construction. It is necessary for us to remember that the greatest submarine plants were in eastern Germany, which is now occupied by Soviet Russia. These plants, or what remained of them, and the skilled men who were still there, are now under Russian control and supervision. We are not dealing, therefore, with the quality of work which might have been possible under Russian workmen. We are dealing with the high quality of work which we know to our sorrow is one of the great characteristics of the German people.

In that thought we might find, too, the answer to something that has caused some measure of surprise in these past few months. I have seen, as I am sure most hon. members have, comments which indicate some measure of surprise that the Russian MIG's which are operating on the Korean front have the speed and the flight characteristics which they have demonstrated. There again