

more at stake than the fate of the Biafrans and the Nigerians. What is at stake is the whole idea of international order. I ask the house, what will future generations say about us if the world community sits idly by while a gifted people of some ten million are exterminated? I am not accusing the government of Nigeria of genocide; I am merely saying that the continuation of the war will be one of the gravest human tragedies since the Nazis destroyed some six million Jews. How can the conscience of the world remain dormant and let this thing happen?

I am most encouraged since my trip to Biafra, as I believe the hon. member for Fundy-Royal is, to find that the people of this country, particularly the younger people, take a different view from that of the government. They are far ahead of the government on this issue and the government should listen a little more to the sound judgment of our people, particularly the young people. The young people wish to build a new world order based upon fundamental human rights. They have no sympathy with the legalisms and the efforts at evasion which the governments of the world have displayed in this matter. I, for one, say that the young people are dead right.

I should like to turn now to the question of relief. We are indeed grateful that the government has done something about this. It has not only contributed money but has also contributed a Hercules plane. But in all candour it is impossible not to say that the effort has been far less effective than it should have been. When I put it that way I believe it is the greatest understatement I have made for some time.

• (4:50 p.m.)

When the hon. member for Egmont (Mr. MacDonald) and I returned from watching the airlift operation into Uli, we made certain proposals to the government at the request of the Canadian, Mr. Axel Duch, who is in charge of the churches, relief operation at Sao Tomé. I want to say something about that effort. It is truly remarkable. We have heard a great deal from the government side about the International Red Cross, and I give great credit to it for the work it has done. But by the middle of October it had flown roughly 3,500 tons of relief supplies from Fernando Po and the churches, relief services, which are carried on by the Roman Catholic and Protestant churches, had flown in some 4,300 tons. It is quite significant that just the other day when the churches' plane was shot down the church operation did not stop, but the Red

External Aid

Cross discontinued its operations with the Canadian Hercules.

Although there are 735 feeding stations in Biafra daily feeding 560,000 people, mainly children and nursing mothers in order that they may survive, this is nothing like enough. What Mr. Duch made abundantly clear to us was that the bottleneck lay in transporting supplies into Biafra. The difficulty is that the planes which fly in nightly to the airstrip at Uli have a capacity of only 10 tons, whereas the Hercules has a capacity of 20 tons and is better fitted for landing purposes and better fitted for loading and unloading supplies.

When we came back we urged the government, at the request of Mr. Duch, to make available Canadian Hercules aircraft to the church operation. If the government had some international nicety which may have prevented them from acting directly they could have done this indirectly in the same way as the Swedish government, by lending planes to the church operation. It is not as though the Roman Catholic and Protestant churches are disreputable outfits. They represent part of the conscience of humanity. It was suggested by the Prime Minister that this would constitute an act of war. I find this farfetched. Is Sweden at war with Nigeria? How ridiculous!

If, as it professes, the Nigerian government is deeply concerned about the welfare of the Biafrans whom it is fighting to retain within the Nigerian state, it should not object to non-political mercy flights. Indeed, it has approved of daylight flights. But it seeks from time to time to put these on its own terms, terms so readily accepted by the government of Canada, which have resulted in the frustration of relief efforts. As long as these terms are reasonable we cannot object but on occasions they have not been reasonable. It has denied its consent to flights by the churches, and the Canadian government has admittedly accepted its denial of consent.

Let me reassert, for the benefit of the Secretary of State for External Affairs if he still doubts me, that I happened to be able to arrange to obtain a recording of what was said by Dr. Arikpo. Dr. Arikpo, the foreign minister for Nigeria, did make it perfectly clear that his government would consent to the Canadian government making Hercules aircraft available to the church operation at Sao Tomé if there could be an inspection by the Red Cross to see that they did not take in arms. Instead of taking advantage of this the Canadian government, typically I suggest,