

*External Affairs*

development program which the pressure of so many extra people represents.

**Mr. Heath Macquarrie (Hillsborough):** It is needless to say, Mr. Speaker, that it was with heavy heart that I listened to the minister's statement. I know that I share with him and all hon. members a profound sense of sorrow at the developments which we have been learning about in recent days and hours in the Indian subcontinent.

We are, of course, particularly concerned about the welfare, safety and security of our own nationals in the area. I am particularly distressed that certain hostile actions have been taken at times, not only in the place mentioned by the minister but at other evacuation points, when the innocent and proper removal of civilians was being undertaken. It is deplorable and regrettable. I hope we will not have further reports of such unfortunate incidents.

The whole question in recent months has not brought forth much reason for optimism. For a long time we should all have seen the gathering clouds over the Indian subcontinent, and should have been prepared for the prospects of the kind of warfare which is being waged by these two countries at the present time. For months there has been tragedy in the subcontinent. Now, with the opening of hostilities, the tragedy has been widened and broadened and given more painful dimensions, and who knows how horrendous might be the situation if this continues.

It is all the more painful, I think, because these are friendly states of the Commonwealth. We feared the situation and we wondered. The burden which India had to bear was a terribly heavy one. Yet, while neither a pacifist nor a dove, I can never believe that a warlike solution today is in fact a solution to problems of this kind. Perhaps the world has not taken sufficient note of the dimensions of the problem. Perhaps the international community should have moved more quickly. Now it is too late to pass judgment on the past.

I am sure everyone here is disturbed about the seeming incapacity so far of the Security Council to take effective action, indeed, Sir, to take any action on this terrible, awful conflict involving so many people and with the grim potentiality of involving so many more. The Security Council, having met hour after hour, seems to end with the use of the veto and in futility. Whether it will be necessary to move from the Security Council to the General Assembly through the technique of the "uniting for peace resolution", as it was once called, we do not know. I would hope the minister might tell us more about the Canadian government's point of view on that. I hope he will also be able to tell us more about what the Canadian nation and the Canadian delegation are prepared to do.

I thank him for this statement. I realize there is not much he can say at this time, but I hope that in the future he will keep the House and the country informed. I can assure him that all of my colleagues, and I am sure all Canadians of decent outlook and concern for the peace of the world, will support the Canadian government in any measure which it can take to help roll back the frontiers of hatred and bring about as quickly as possible that which surely is of the essence today, the cessation of hostilities through a ceasefire.

[Mr. Sharp.]

**Mr. David Lewis (York South):** Mr. Speaker, it is unnecessary to assure the Secretary of State for External Affairs that we appreciate the efforts the government has obviously taken to assure the safety of Canadian nationals in the area referred to. It is also unnecessary, I think, to say to him that we appreciate fully the difficulties of the situation and the fact that the contribution which Canada is able to make in the solution of the political and military problem is necessarily limited.

I want to underline in my comments on the minister's statement the seriousness of the war not only for the people directly concerned, the people of India and Pakistan and the people of East Pakistan, but for the future peace of the world. The failure of the Security Council to arrive at any consensus, Mr. Speaker, is not accidental; it is due to the fact that the Soviet Union has launched itself on one side and Mainland China has launched itself on the opposite side and the United States of America is trying to make up its mind precisely where it belongs. It is the ranging on opposite sides by these big powers that makes it impossible for the Security Council to reach any solution to the problem and makes the war so dangerous to the future peace of the world.

I say through you, Mr. Speaker—and I hope not presumptuously to the people concerned on this subcontinent—that if the war continues very long and attracts the forces of perhaps China on one side and the Soviet Union on the other, or accelerated military assistance from one side or the other or both, then obviously world war will come a step closer and the danger of nuclear destruction will become as serious as it has ever been since the end of the last war. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, without wanting to be dramatic about the subject I think the Canadian government ought to consider very seriously whether the matter should be left very much longer with the Security Council in view of the futility which has resulted from that or whether it should be taken to the General Assembly where the veto does not exist and perhaps the international world might take some steps to advance peace in the area.

I think it is important to remember that this outbreak of war is the result of many years of conflict and was particularly sharpened by the shortsightedness of American policy in 1958 or so when the Indian declaration of non-alignment suggested to Mr. Dulles and his associates in Washington that Pakistan ought to be militarily strengthened. It ought also to be remembered that the war has occurred because of the completely indefensible step taken by Mr. Yahya Khan, the head of the government in West Pakistan, against the Awami League, which had won all of the seats in East Pakistan and some in West Pakistan in a democratic election in that country. Mr. Yahya had refused to permit Sheik Mujib to become the head of government of all Pakistan as the election required him to do. Instead, he has imposed a military government and has outlawed the Awami League and imprisoned not only Sheik Mujib but others as well. In our anxiety to have the war ended by a ceasefire—all members of my party in the House are as anxious to see that as any other member or any other citizen of Canada—we should not fail to remember what Yahya Khan has done to the democratic process in Pakistan and to the people of East Pakistan and no step