

External Affairs

of that main trouble spot in the world, Indo-China, and the point that there effective resistance was being offered to communist attack and penetration in that area of south-east Asia. The second problem with which I was dealing was the importance of that struggle in relation to NATO, because France's commitments in Indo-China were preventing her from playing her full part in the European defence community; and I had pointed out that, without the organization of the European defence community, NATO suffers.

I had reached the stage in my remarks where I was going to suggest what Canada's position should be under those circumstances. I think it is perfectly evident that our interest is as great as that of any other nation in the resistance that should be offered to the advance of communism anywhere in the world. We cannot stand on the sidelines while communist attacks are taking place. We have had sufficient experience in the past to know that we cannot stand aside from world events, and the things that happen in Europe and Asia whether we will it or not will involve us in conflict. We had that experience in 1914 and in 1939 in Europe, and in 1950 in Asia.

We are fully aware that there is a world-wide threat of communism. Again the Secretary of State for External Affairs is very helpful to me, particularly in the speech he made a year ago. I have not been quite so impressed with his efforts this year. A year ago, as reported at page 1864 of *Hansard*, he had this to say:

Meanwhile it is becoming increasingly clear that it is communist world strategy to attempt to drain away the strength of the western democracies by military and quasi-military action in the Far East and other places and by fomenting disturbances in the Middle East and in Africa. The communist threat then is on a global scale, and no exclusively regional approach to that threat will be sufficient. The policies required to meet it must be world-wide too. Asian problems are linked with European problems, as has been so clearly demonstrated in the case of Indo-China.

Well, I think it is perfectly clear to everybody that communism offers a world-wide threat. We must be on the alert against that threat everywhere in the world.

Again, so far as Canada's position is concerned, our interest in NATO is just as great as that of any of the other thirteen nations who are participating in that effort. We are just as much concerned as any nation in the world with the position of France in relation to NATO, and just as much concerned with the organization of the European defence community. And that, may I point out, has been delayed now for two years, due chiefly to the reluctance of France to enter fully into the scheme.

That reluctance is founded on a real problem, because of her commitments in Indo-China. I think we have not fully realized that fact. When people sometimes say, "Well, why does not France play her part in NATO and in European arrangements?" they overlook her very heavy commitments in Indo-China. Some people asked General Montgomery if NATO commanders could not go ahead without France, and of course he replied No, that France is essential to the defence arrangements in Europe. It is a country of approximately 43 million people with a fine record of service when it comes to warfare, and absolutely the central part of European defence.

Well then, if France is so important, what can we do to help her? I mentioned this afternoon the resolution passed two years ago at a conference of NATO powers suggesting that it would be in keeping with the objectives of NATO if NATO countries assisted France in Indo-China. Does France need any assistance? Let us consider the effort she is putting forth. France is reported to have 12 divisions serving in Indo-China. Taking Canada's population at 15 millions and comparing it with the 43 millions in France, and accepting the fact that in the matter of population our country is about a third the size of France, to make a comparable effort we would have to arm four divisions. Actually we have under arms about one division. One brigade is stationed in Korea, one brigade in Europe, and there are forces here in Canada.

Fortunately our men are not engaged in warfare, whereas the divisions of France in Indo-China are suffering a constant drain through loss of life and the wastage of warfare. When one considers the effort France is putting forth, he must ask himself what aid Canada can give. Can we give material assistance to France in Indo-China? The United States is doing it—I believe it is \$400 million, increased this year to about \$700 million or \$750 million, to counterbalance the support communist forces in Indo-China are receiving from communist China and from Russia. It has been shown that their supplies are coming from communist China, from Russia and from Czechoslovakia. Could we give assistance by way of technicians to help the French in Indo-China? The suggestion was made last year by a member of this party that we could give assistance by way of transport aircraft. Could we give assistance by way of training native troops?—because it is important in the effort now being made in Indo-China, as it was earlier in connection with Korea, to train