

contribution to world peace by, on the one hand, continuing to give full support to the efforts of free nations to restore a healthy economy and, on the other hand, without abandoning our ultimate goal of security through the universal international organization of the United Nations, by sanely and firmly taking our stand with those nations whose way of life and love of freedom, like our own, make them corner-stones of that better and more peaceful world which we shall yet be able to build.

Six weeks ago, speaking in the House of Commons, I said that the free nations, or some of them, might soon find it necessary to consult together on how best to establish a new collective security league under Article 51 of the Charter. I said that Canada should be willing to enter such a league. I referred to entry into such a league as a fateful decision for Canada.

Why was it that the proposal met with unanimous support in the House of Commons from members of all political parties? I suggest it is because we, in Canada, are agreed upon the essential basis of our foreign policy.

We are agreed, to begin with, that totalitarian communist aggression constitutes a direct and immediate threat to every democratic country, including Canada. It endangers our freedom and our peace. It puts in jeopardy the values and virtues of the civilisation of Western Christendom of which we are heirs and defenders.

Secondly, we have come to a common realization of what Communist totalitarianism means to the people subjected to its tyranny. We have seen the Bolsheviks create in Russia the most omnipotent and pervasive state in history. We have seen them take over what was the worst feature of the Czarist regime, the secret police, and expand it. The Soviet Government, though proclaimed by Communist parties to be the champion of the oppressed, is itself an oppressor on a scale surpassing even Nazi Germany. It has already, in ten countries of eastern Europe as well as in the Soviet Union itself, suppressed the freedom of millions of men and imposed a police regime upon them. It has demonstrated to us that the goal of social justice can never be reached by the Communist methods of terror and violence. It has demonstrated that the division today is not, as the Communists vainly assert, between the forces of reaction with the Fascists on the extreme right and the forces of progress with the Communists on the extreme left. The reactionary parties are those which advocate a police state; and they are reactionary whether they call themselves Nazi, Fascist or Communist. The parties of progress are those which advocate a free society. The police state, by coercion and regimentation, ultimately makes progress impossible. Only in a free society can there exist a firm foundation for social and spiritual progress. Therefore, the things that divide the democratic parties of the free nations, by whatever names they call themselves, are as nothing compared with the gulf that separates them all from the Communists and the regimenting totalitarians.

It is, I suggest, because virtually all the people of Canada have come to realize these things that there are today no fundamental differences between them on questions of foreign policy.

We are all resolved to maintain and to strengthen in Canada the values and virtues of our civilization; values and virtues which the totalitarian societies repudiate with contempt and derision: respect for the worth, the dignity, the inviolability of the individual man, woman and child; the belief that the state exists for man and not man for the state; the belief that all men are brothers; the belief in pity and compassion.

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