

The fifth column presents two separate dangers. If a hot war should break out, enemy agents in our midst might be capable of doing crippling damage at the outset. That is why free nations cannot afford to neglect every reasonable precaution to find any secret agents there may be, and to make sure they are rendered harmless. That calls for skilled police activity by experts. Now generally speaking it is desirable to have as much publicity as possible about public affairs; but police action to detect possible enemy agents certainly cannot be helped and can be seriously hampered by publicity campaigns. What is more, we must all take the utmost care to make sure that we avoid introducing into our free communities the methods and attitudes of the police state, which are perhaps the most terrible of all the terrors of totalitarianism.

In the mouths of a certain type of intellectual, Communism is represented as a social faith and it has some appeal to those who are ignorant of the results as distinguished from the promises of Communism. Communism by promising to redress injustice or to end poverty has a considerable capacity to rally its fifth columns in any corner of the world where it has gained a foothold. But I do not believe we need to have any worry of mass support for Communism in Canada as long as this country remains a land of promise and opportunity for all our people whatever their origin or occupation.

That is why I say that the maintenance of enterprise, of prosperity, of a high level of employment and an expanding standard of human welfare are among the most potent weapons in the cold war. Of course, to these material advantages, we must add a vigorous faith in our free institutions. The maintenance of a strong free nation at home is naturally only the foundation of our contribution to the cold war. Canada is a great trading nation. Each individual Canadian depends more on trade than does the individual citizen of any other country. That gives us a special interest in the restoration of the economies of war devastated countries, particularly the United Kingdom and the countries of Western Europe which have always been the best overseas markets for our surplus production.

We Canadians have already made a very great contribution to the cause of European economic recovery, and we are continuing to do so. We are doing it as a matter of enlightened self-interest. Not only do we want to have markets in Britain and Europe; but the greater the economic strength of those countries, the more they will be able to do for their own defence and the greater our military security will become. Of course, the cold war is not confined to Europe and the North Atlantic region. As I said, it is a total war and no region of the world is immune.

At this time the great continent of Asia is feeling the pinch of the cold war; it is also in the throes of one of the greatest upheavals ever seen in history. Hundreds of millions of people have become increasingly conscious of their poverty at the same time as they have become independent.

This would appear to be a fertile ground for Communism and the Communists are doing their utmost to convince the people of Asia that their salvation, both economic and political, lies in the acceptance of Communism as a panacea of their many pressing problems.

Of course leaders like Mr. Nehru, the Prime Minister of India, and the other statesmen who provide over the destinies of those great lands know that if such a panacea were