

Supply—External Affairs

likewise for obvious reasons. Even if Canada is a young country, it still remains that it is one hundred years old and that it has a most important role to play in international affairs.

In fact, it is not so much population that counts but the expanse of territory. Vancouver is further removed from Halifax than Paris or Germany are from Canada. Our country has a population of 18 million whereas Belgium which is only 150 square miles in area, has 9 million inhabitants, that is about half our population.

What conclusion can one draw from those facts, Mr. Chairman? The conclusion that Canada is a young and vast country which should set for the world an example of peace and prosperity.

Mr. Chairman, it would be beneficial if the Secretary of State for External Affairs could represent Canada as a country which has everything and which at the same time is a prosperous one, for if we take into account the number of unemployed in this country, the people of other countries cannot help but think that Canada is not so prosperous after all.

Mr. Chairman, I believe that we should first review our national monetary policy, in order to give the example to the other countries of the world which are now seeking solutions to the problem of surpluses, while others try to solve that of hunger.

Some time ago, we welcomed the news that an agreement had been signed on the suspension of nuclear tests.

I have here the report tabled by our previous secretary of state for external affairs at the United Nations. At page 8 of that report, he said that nuclear tests were most dangerous from a health point of view.

The second complete report of the United Nations scientific committee on the effects of atomic radiation is quite clear on that point when it says:

Since there are no other effective methods to prevent the harmful effects of the spread of radioactive contamination caused by nuclear explosions, the permanent suspension of nuclear tests would be beneficial to present and future human generations.

That is what the request for investigation by the secretary general of the United Nations implies.

It is, on the other hand, unfortunate that this country should have included nuclear arms in its national defence policy. Canada might have played a peaceful and prosperous part among the countries of the world.

Let us take a look at Switzerland: there we have a country which has always remained aloof from war, which never had to rebuild what it had built before; anyway, when visiting countries which have been devastated by

[Mr. Rondeau.]

war, a very different situation can be seen. We may, therefore, conclude that those things are hardly helpful.

I think the Secretary of State for External Affairs should dispose of the tremendous sums which were to be appropriated for nuclear arms, to enable him to carry out all the good intentions expressed this afternoon, because there is no lack of good intentions, but of the necessary funds to carry them out.

We favour disarmament, which normally should result from an agreement to abandon nuclear tests, in the publication *External Affairs*, of September 1962, I read, on page 269, the following, under the title "Economic and social consequences of disarmament":

A report on the economic and social consequences of disarmament was published by the United Nations Organization in February 1962. It had been prepared by an advisory group appointed by the secretary general, following a resolution moved by Pakistan, which was carried on December 15, 1960, and this report will be discussed at the seventeenth session of the general assembly.

The advisory group was made up of experts coming from the following countries: United States, France, Great Britain, India, Pakistan, Poland, Sudan, Czechoslovakia, U.S.S.R. and Venezuela. Chosen by the secretary general, the experts submitted their suggestions in their own name. The advisory group held two meetings, the first one in Geneva, in August 1961, and the second, in the U.N. building, in New York, from January 23 to February 16 of the current year.

Here is the unanimous conclusion reached by the group:

The achievement of a general and complete disarmament would be an incommensurate blessing for the whole human race.

You can see that group decided in favour of disarmament after the signing of the test ban treaty.

In the same article, it is said a little further:

It is estimated that the world spends about \$120 billion yearly for military purposes at the present time. That amount represents at least two thirds of the total national revenues in all underdeveloped countries. About 85 per cent of this total is spent by seven countries: U.S.S.R., United States, Great Britain, France, German Federal Republic, Chinese People's Republic and Canada.

Canada is among the seven countries that spend most for military purposes.

To go further than the previous speakers, may I add that Canada should restrict herself to a pacific part and show the whole world that despite her small population in relation to her territory, she is really prosperous and able to help underdeveloped countries of South America, by maintaining trade relations with them, while correcting her unfavourable trade balance.

Canada ought to set an example for mankind, which is looking for peace in the world and prosperity for all nations.