

The Address—Mr. Diefenbaker

throughout the years has given devoted service to the British people, the British commonwealth and to freedom has resigned today because of ill health. Whether one may agree or disagree with all of the stands he has taken throughout the years, no one can deny his devotion to freedom and the lengths to which Sir Anthony Eden was prepared to go in support of the principles in which he believed and to give of his best to the solution of problems affecting freedom loving people everywhere in the world.

I should like the Prime Minister, if he will, to review some of the events that have taken place in connection with international affairs since we last met in the short session of parliament. At that time we pointed out the degree to which Canada had joined with others in criticism of the stand taken by Britain and France and we indicated that there would be encouragement to Nasser to act in a way contrary to international principles. Indeed, the division among the nations of the free world was such that it brought about a cleavage serious to the preservation and maintenance of freedom. Since then Nasser has succeeded beyond, I would say, even his fondest dreams. He placed obstacles in the way of the clearance of the canal. He gave notice he would no longer recognize the six principles of the United Nations for the future of the canal. He first refused to permit British and French crews to work in the clearing operations and then finally said he would allow them if they handed over their equipment to the United Nations. Britain and France acted in good faith to quit Egypt and the canal was to be cleared on a non-political basis.

All these things took place and the situation today seems as serious as it did on the occasion of the short session of parliament, if not more so. At that time I had the honour to suggest that something be done by Canada to bring together the leaders of Britain, France and the United States. In the last few days there has been some suggestion that at an early date there will be such a conference. I ask the Prime Minister whether or not he is in agreement that Canada should be the country to act as host in bringing together these three nations in order to achieve that degree of unity, co-operation and united effort that has characterized these three powers over the years. What has been done in that connection? What course is being followed in order to bring about a restoration of better relations between these nations?

I realize that since we met the council of NATO has met. What took place there? The

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report of the council indicates that progress was made. There were some of us who were surprised that, in the choice of the Secretary General, one who had the qualifications of the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Pearson) had not accepted the appointment. I think it was suggested that he would do so. There were many who expected it. Indeed, I think some of his colleagues sitting not too far from him had hoped that he would do so.

Mr. Pickersgill: I suggest it was hon. gentlemen opposite.

Mr. Diefenbaker: I was not referring to my hon. friend. Would the Prime Minister (Mr. St. Laurent) indicate what took place at the NATO conference in so far as changes were brought into being which will unite once more the freedom-loving powers to which I have referred? What is being done? After all, there is a reference to NATO. The Prime Minister indicates that he was not there. In the speech from the throne we find this paragraph:

An encouraging advance is being made, as evidenced by the latest ministerial meeting of the council, in the development of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization in the non-military as well as in the military field. My ministers remain strongly convinced of the need to maintain the North Atlantic Treaty as the keystone of the defence of the western nations.

Would the Prime Minister say what is being done? Would he say whether or not even now, if an invitation has not been previously extended, he would feel like extending that invitation on behalf of the people of Canada to the leaders of the three powers to meet here to the end that in an atmosphere of goodwill within this country the leaders of these nations might come together and once more restore the strength of the alliances between them.

Then there was a reference to the United Nations and the degree to which the United Nations is achieving a new importance in the world. There is a reference to the heroic stand of the Hungarian people, and with that there can be no disagreement; for so long as freedom lives in the hearts of men the stand of those Hungarian people will be an epic, and a heroic one, in the history of freedom regardless of what stands may be taken in the future.

But what of the United Nations in connection with Hungary? When resolutions were passed with regard to Britain and France, action was taken by those countries. What is the intention of Canada with reference to the attitude taken by the Hungarian government in refusing in any way except, in the most qualified manner, to carry out the wishes and the directions of the United