

Supply—External Affairs

movement toward freedom of nations should also bear in mind that under any impractical abandonment of such measure of organized direction as now exists, without something else being put in its place, we may well open the door to the vilest form of slavery this world has known.

An hon. Member: You said that before.

Mr. Drew: Yes, I have said that before, and may I say to my hon. friend of the C.C.F. party who just interjected, that I shall say it again on many occasions, because of all the vile forms of slavery this world has known I do not think there is anything to compare with the Godless communism which has been imposed by force upon nearly 800 million people in this world in comparatively recent years.

As I conceive it, and as I conceive the hope of those who have been discussing the problems of Asia, it is a hope that through the assistance of the democratic powers, and through the combined strength of those democratic powers, an opportunity may be offered to the countries of Asia, as to the countries of the rest of the world, to enjoy at some time, and as soon as may be possible in Divine Wisdom, that kind of freedom which has been our privilege in Canada and in every country that enjoys the same parliamentary system.

Why should any of us be reluctant to talk of collective action to preserve freedom? Was that not the whole concept of the charter of the United Nations signed at San Francisco in the spring of 1945? Every nation that signed that charter pledged itself to a common effort to assure to every nation in the world, strong or weak, the right to determine its own form of government and its own course by its own free choice. As we speak of the necessity for recognizing the right of freedom in Asia and in other parts of the world, the right which all of us certainly accept, let us never at any time talk of that right of freedom without remembering those nations now behind the iron curtain which also have the right of freedom at some time and under some plan which may become possible by the very terms of the charter of the United Nations which we all signed.

Do not let anyone suggest that Poland, the Ukraine, Roumania, Hungary, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, or any other country, including China, now under a communist government received that form of government except by the power, or threat of power, exercised by Moscow.

No one is suggesting that any sudden change in this tragic scene of slavery can

[Mr. Drew.]

take place, but never at any time should we forget that if our signatures and the signatures of all the free nations to the charter of the United Nations means anything at all, it means that we accepted the proposition that every nation had the right to choose its own course.

While some of these other nations are being discussed, and while Russia, China, and the other satellites are making their proposals, I think that the free nations should be making the proposal that under the supervision of the United Nations a vote be taken in those countries now under Russian dominance to see what kind of government they want. Before this satellite government in China tells us what should be done in any part of the world, before we accept advice from Russia at any time, surely it is our right and our duty to go back to that charter, signed in the spring of 1945, and point out the obligation that exists under that charter for such an opportunity to express their own opinion by the nations which now have communist governments enforced upon them.

This is not an original idea. This is not a new concept. This thought was carried forward from the days after the first world war. After that struggle votes were taken under the auspices of the league of nations and the result of those votes was interpreted in the subsequent recognition of the wish of the people as expressed by the ballot.

I leave that subject there, but while we talk so much about assuring freedom in many distant lands, and no one disagrees with the reminder of the need for that freedom, let us also keep in mind those ancient lands with centuries upon centuries of culture and civilization behind them which want freedom from communism as much as any people in the world. I would hope that the day will not be long distant when those proposals will be put before gatherings attended by Russia, by the satellite nations, and by those other nations which are so generous with their advice to us.

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, in speaking of those different world-wide associations which have emerged under the United Nations or in association with it, spoke of the commonwealth association. He said that it has played and can play a very valuable role. He expressed regret that India and other Asian members of the commonwealth had not been included in the conference. I think all of us will share that regret, and I think all of us would welcome the day with enthusiasm, and with great hope, when India and Pakistan, Ceylon and