

● (1730)

What is it that causes them to adopt this stand or that at the United Nations, or in a disarmament debate, or in the Law of the Sea discussions or to invade the Falklands? These matters do not develop overnight. They can be observed only by a competent foreign service. These in-depth analyses of motivation and explanation of national behaviour are not to be found in news reports, in *The New York Times* or any other paper, despite what the Prime Minister says. That is what the Department of External Affairs was well trained to do, until successive governments under this Prime Minister deliberately debilitated it and set out to destroy that essential capacity in foreign affairs.

Why otherwise, I ask myself, did Miss McDougall feel moved to recommend as she did in her report at page 55? Recommendation 44 is a very important recommendation and I implore your Honour to listen. It states, "Concrete steps should be taken to correct the widely held view that those in positions of power consider the activities and the product of the foreign services largely irrelevant to federal government or Canadian objectives." When a royal commissioner has to make that kind of a recommendation, conditions in the foreign service are in a sorry state. They are at a low ebb. I am glad that there are at least two ministers present in the House to hear my comments.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier): Order, please. I regret to interrupt the hon. gentleman, but his allotted time has expired.

Mr. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich): I have a lot more to say.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier): The hon. member for Hamilton West (Mr. Hudecki).

Some hon. Members: Shame!

Mr. Stanley Hudecki (Hamilton West): Mr. Speaker, my contribution to this debate will be fairly well directed to one aspect, and that is by way of an overview to the background of Polish history to indicate what is expected of that country today and in what direction our help and our support should be given. Much of the debate, a great deal of the talk that one hears and the arguments put forward are without a real understanding of what the underlying cause of the problem has been in Poland. The help being given is very much that of symptomatic relief. It is superficial help. It does not get down to the cause of the internal and worrisome problem existing in that country.

To really understand it, one must look back to Yalta in 1945, at which time the principals, namely Stalin, Roosevelt and Churchill, made a decision by which Poland was handed to Russia. It was put under the sphere of influence of Russia with the rather vague understanding that within the next one or two years, a free election would take place and at that time the country would be given an opportunity to direct its future. This was an assurance given by two allies, by Churchill and President Roosevelt.

This was a very damaging and unbelievably serious blow to the personality of that particular nation. Until that point,

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Poland had a record of one thousand years as a protector of the Christian faith. It had been a protector of democratic principles. It had contributed to the world of art and to the world of music. It had been scholarly in various intellectual pursuits. At that time it was the centre of university training and had the ultimate example of the concepts of freedom and education. This freedom, by virtue of that meeting at Yalta, was snatched away.

Those of us who took part in the last war heard stories of the exploits of the Polish people in a military sense. They took a very active part in the Royal Canadian Air Force. Indeed, a prominent member of this House from Brandon-Souris (Mr. Dinsdale) was a member of that squadron and took part in some of the air battles. The Poles made a very outstanding defence at Monte Cassino in Italy under Alexander. They fought in Africa in the third Canadian and British divisions under Montgomery and acquired the distinction of being very worthy fighters and supporters of the allied cause.

What I am pointing out is that this country, whose ideals and ideology were similar to ours, and which supported the Christian faith, was handed over to a completely foreign country with an ideology completely incompatible with its personality, background, ideals and hopes. It was at that point that if anyone were to assist the Poles, they ought to have stepped forward. Unfortunately, there was no initiative by any of the allied countries to give the Poles that free election and the opportunity to acquire the status they had previously held. What happened was that this nation of courageous and hard-working individuals was able to adjust on its own, and did adjust, to the conditions under which it was forced to live.

Shortly after 1945, the Poles did accept a socialist form of government and the loss of sovereignty and were prepared to work with the communist government imposed on them. They realized very early that they comprised a buffer state between western Europe and the eastern communist bloc. However, their spirit and drive were such that they were not satisfied.

All of us who have followed the progress of the country of Poland have seen how it was possible for the unions to be organized under the very eyes of the communist regime, how they were united with the support of the church, the farmers and the university students. The Polish people formed a union which was unique in the world, one which worked hand-in-hand with management, with the academics and with the farmers in creating a force which, through its own moral suasion, was able to bring ten million of their 14 million workers under one umbrella unit.

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The members of this group known as Solidarity were effective in producing a crack in the ideological makeup which we know as communism, and they have continued to enlarge that crack. They were able to surround themselves with people of similar aims amongst the Czechoslovakians and the Hungarians, and then martial law was imposed upon them. Now,