

In mentioning the Far East, I should acknowledge at once the tremendous burden which the United States is bearing in Korea; the courage and determination being shown there by its men. There is, I think, no difference in viewpoint between the governments with forces in Korea as to the desirability of bringing that war to an end - as soon as possible - but on honourable terms which do not betray the purpose that we had in intervening in the first place. That purpose was - and remains - to defeat aggression, nothing more.

The Canadian Government supports as a possible step to peace the armistice negotiations now being carried on with such patient determination by United States representatives on behalf of the United Nations. We realize that if these negotiations fail, or if an armistice is successfully concluded and then a further aggression is committed by the Communists, a new and dangerous situation will arise. I said publicly in our House of Commons on April 26 last that if there were massive air attacks from Manchurian bases, retaliatory action might be required against those bases, in order to safeguard the United Nations forces in Korea. I then went on to say that the decision to authorize such action would, as we see it, have to balance very carefully local military considerations against the risk of precipitating a further extension of the war, with all its incalculable consequences. We are not convinced, for instance, that general retaliatory measures such as the blockading of the Chinese coast would be as effective in ending the war in Korea as they would be likely to extend it to China. We feel this way because the best advice we can get leads us to believe that such measures might bring us to the position where, as General Bradley has put it, we would find ourselves fighting the wrong war at the wrong place at the wrong time, and with the wrong enemy.

We also think that United Nations policies should be designed to end an aggression in North Korea and not to overthrow by force a Communist régime in Peking. Like other democratic governments, the Canadian Government, and the Canadian people, detest Communism in Asia or anywhere else. We will do what we can, and should, to eliminate it from our own country and to protect ourselves from its aggressive and subversive designs from abroad. When it shows itself in other countries in the form of military aggression, as it did in Korea, we must oppose it. As a doctrine we should expose it as reactionary and as the instrument of Russian imperialism. But we should not forget that in Asia it has managed to attach itself to forces of nationalism and social reform. As John Foster Dulles said in Princeton a fortnight ago, "A revolutionary spirit has gripped over half the human race, passions are abroad which can not be suppressed by foreign guns."

As a doctrine, Communism in Asia will not be destroyed by guns, though guns have to be used when Communist violence and banditry occurs. It will be destroyed by Asians themselves when its true character is unmasked. Western countries, however, can help in this destruction by encouraging and assisting genuinely democratic national governments in Asia, by economic and technical assistance to such governments and by showing, through their own experience and their own achievements that free parliamentary government can do more for the people than reactionary Russian Communism can ever hope to do.