

External Affairs

southeastern Asia was to bind these free peoples together in a brotherhood of mutually satisfactory and helpful co-operation in order to minimize the danger from aggression and also to destroy the subversive elements that keep gnawing away in an attempt to break down constituted government and to give the communists a chance to step in.

It was also clear and very heartening, too, when I read that speech to note that the United States held out to southeastern Asiatic countries the hope of substantial help from the United States in their efforts to improve their economic and social conditions. It appears that as a consequence of United States leadership in the formation of the Manila pact and by her actions since it was formed, United States' prestige has risen in southeastern Asia to considerable heights.

Reference has been made to the Colombo plan this afternoon and this evening, particularly by the hon. member for Prince Albert (Mr. Diefenbaker). In the debate on the speech from the throne I devoted a large part of my address to what I thought about extending Canada's contribution to the Colombo plan. I did not mention a billion dollars or any such figure at the time. I merely mentioned that the \$26 million which we contribute today is not enough. I go along with the minister and with those who say that in extending economic aid to these countries under the Colombo plan we should extend to them the kind of help that will help them to help themselves. That is the only kind of help they can use. We should be prepared to give them whatever is required to assist them in bringing their social and economic conditions to a decent standard.

What satisfaction we have shown over the recent changes in United States policy is not based upon a desire to see a test of strength between the United States and Russia. God forbid that any such thing should ever happen. Canada would surely be involved in such a test. Our satisfaction arises because we see developing a firmer, more realistic policy that gives some hope of keeping the world out of war and of bringing us into an era of peace.

History has shown that human liberties have been won only after long struggle. They have been preserved in all ages only by being prepared to fight for them. We know we face a very, very difficult situation now, because while the only way we can preserve our freedoms is to be prepared to fight for them if necessary, we realize at the same time that if we did fight for them, it might have the effect of loosing upon the world all the tragic consequences of nuclear warfare.

But we have to be prepared to take that chance just as our fathers have taken it times without number in the past.

This, of course, poses a real dilemma. If the awful nature of the problem forces us to our knees with the overpowering conviction that there is no other source of help to which we can turn but that of a just and loving God, then we will be well on the way to a solution that will save mankind.

Speaking of this dilemma on March 6, the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Pearson) had this to say:

It can be seen that whatever happens we will need, in the trying circumstances that we face, strong nerves, and deep faith; great wisdom and patience and understanding. And we will have to shape our education and our teaching more than ever to these ends.

With these words we heartily agree.

Mr. J. L. MacDougall (Vancouver-Burrard): I am happy to rise on this occasion to participate in a most important series of addresses by hon. members of this house.

At the outset I am going to state bluntly that as far as the intricacies of foreign affairs are concerned, I am going to leave them to the experts.

From my experience on the external affairs committees of this house since 1949 and from my experience as a freshman at the United Nations, I feel that I possibly did pick up something there which might be of at least some interest to the people of Canada and the hon. members of this house, whether or not it solves any of the problems that beset the world today in this era of cold war.

First of all, sir, I wish to pay a most superlative compliment to the hon. minister of external affairs (Mr. Pearson). I have observed him at the United Nations and I am sure some of the girls and women of Canada will be envious when I say that while he was there many of the representatives from large and small foreign countries were so anxious to buss him when they met him that invariably he had to sit down. He has a great many admirers in all foreign countries and we in Canada, I think, can be justly proud not only of the minister but also of the staff—

Mr. Knowles: Our blushing diplomat!

Mr. MacDougall: —of the Canadian delegation at the United Nations.

In my youth I used to be a fair judge of feminine pulchritude and I want to tell this house—

Mr. Knowles: Don't tell everything!

Mr. MacDougall: —and the people of Canada that of all the lovely girls I saw in New York the queen rose in a garden of rosebuds