

External Affairs

deal of prestige to Canada. I think the time has come to say openly that the Secretary of State for External Affairs and the Prime Minister (Mr. St. Laurent) of this country have done more than any other Canadians to bring Canadian foreign policy out of the filing cabinet, and put it where all Canadians can see it.

It is estimated that the population of the world is approximately two and a half billions of people. If we are generous and give Canada fifteen million, I think we are somewhat struck by the fact that our international influence is out of all proportion to our numbers. In many respects, in the councils of the world we rate just as high as the United Kingdom and the United States. Why is this so? Well, one of the reasons is that the Department of External Affairs contains men who are trained in the intricacies of international negotiation. They have men of not only scholarship but men of action, and the two working together speak at the United Nations and elsewhere throughout the world sensibly and clearly on behalf of all of us. Because, in essence, our foreign service is really a form of defence. Oh, I admit it is less dramatic than the army, the navy or the air force; but it has tangible qualities, nevertheless.

Our foreign service is a defence against evil ideas which must be fought before they put on armour and before they take up guns. And the best place to do this fighting is at the United Nations. The main battleground where this war of ideas can be won or lost is in the assembly hall and in the various committee rooms of the United Nations.

What exactly is the United Nations? It is two things, it seems to me: It is the sounding board of world opinion, and it is the instrument by which the world seeks to survive. If one examines the preamble to the charter he will see it lays down two basic points. It declares that the peoples of the United Nations are "determined to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war" and "to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights."

Some among us say that the United Nations has failed. But I would remind you that the United Nations was not born in Utopia, but in San Francisco in the year 1945, and at a time when human society was certainly in a most insecure position and certainly fearfully divided.

The hon. member for Peace River (Mr. Low) made the statement to the effect that the United Nations is ineffective in preventing aggression. Well, I admit that the United Nations is not one hundred per cent perfect; but I would point out to him that the fighting between Israel and the Arab states was, at

the very least, lessened, and that the occupation of Greece was prevented, and that the trouble between Pakistan and India, if not solved, was certainly eased. And, last, but by no means least, aggression in Korea was met, and is certainly halted at the present time.

I think we should not forget that the United Nations is only eight years old, whereas the problems it is tackling are almost as old as human life itself. It takes time for an eight-year-old infant to find a formula for relieving centuries-old conflicts and prejudices. I think it is remarkable that the United Nations has done as well as it has. We will not get rich quick in creating peaceful international relations. But we must keep our minds on the long pull; and perhaps in the long run we will get more peace than we think possible at the present time.

I think hon. members are entitled to ask me this question: And what of the cost, in dollars and cents? The total annual budget of the United Nations is approximately \$41 million, and the Canadian share of this budget is 3.3 per cent or \$1,350,000. That is to say, the annual cost of Canada's participation in the United Nations is about ten cents per Canadian, per annum, or the equivalent of two daily newspapers or one bus ride each year.

If you add to the United Nations the cost of the specialized agencies, such as the world health organization, UNESCO and ICAO—which is located in Montreal—the annual budget is approximately \$80 million, and Canada's share is \$2,650,000, or less than twenty cents per person, per annum.

May I ask you this question: Is that too high a premium to pay for a chance of security? Compare it with the cost of defence. One Sabre jet costs \$300,000; one bomber costs \$1,500,000; one escort destroyer costs approximately \$14 million, or \$1 per person per annum. Therefore, for the cost of one bomber we pay for our contribution to the United Nations and a chance at peace.

In wartime the sword is mighty, and certainly Canadians know how to use it. In peacetime, however, we want our problems discussed and concluded in a reasonable way under the rule of law, and not under the rule of force.

The United Nations provides a world forum where problems can be exposed and discussed, and arrangements or solutions attempted. Even Mr. Dulles, that frequently-quoted gentleman, said only the other day that but for the United Nations we would at the present time be involved in a third world war.