

*Foreign Policy*

has only to say the word to bring an avalanche of Chinese "volunteers" to its aid.

Ultimately, he predicted, the course of events will result in just that.

Day after day over the C.B.C. we have a continual chorus being placed before the Canadian people that after all communism is not so bad. They advocate the United States get out regardless of the consequences. That proposition is a complete denial of the prospects that mankind faces.

This government has tried to be on both sides of the question of Viet Nam. At Temple University in Philadelphia the Prime Minister two years ago said:

No nation—and particularly no newly independent nation—could ever feel secure if capitulation in Viet Nam led to the sanctification of aggression through subversion and spurious wars of national liberation.

Today with the situation dark and difficult the government of Canada is on both sides of the Viet Nam question. It is at the same time on neither side. The ministers speak multilingually on foreign affairs regardless of the fact that in so doing they are failing to give leadership. I think, and I have never detoured from this position that the United States ought to carry out the appeal that was made by the United Nations Secretary General for a halt in the American air bombardment of North Viet Nam. I realize such a step would cause dangers and there are imponderables in the equation. There is no positive guarantee that it would bring about peace talks. It might enable the north to increase the flow of goods to the south and strengthen defences at home. All of this is true but, sir, let it be tried.

U Thant has said that he is afraid we are witnessing today the initial phase of world war III. No one knows what, if anything, will bring Viet Nam to the peace table but it will not be the mass evacuation of United States forces, a proposition which received such approval from the communist party in our country the other day in a release from communist headquarters. On the other hand, realizing the position of the United States I believe that there should be a bombing halt with a strenuous peace offensive by leaders everywhere in the western world.

Certainly what is happening today is frightening in its implications. Those of us who are older will not be there if war comes but the young men and women of this nation and of all the western nations will not stand idle. The other day five United States senators, both Republican and Democratic, came

[Mr. Diefenbaker.]

out in favour of action along this line. The Democratic leader in the U.S. senate pleaded for such action. I would like to see our parliament, while realizing the tremendous contribution of the United States, make clear the view that such a bombing halt is necessary today. There will be no second prizes in the next world war.

Can we not hope that instead of being answered, as we were today, in a condescending manner, the government will come clean, will tell Canadians the facts, will let us know what the course is to be—not the unimaginative nonsense of the Minister of National Defence in setting up his personal plaything, the unified force. Let us have a declaration from the government of Canada as to what it intends to do and the course it intends to follow, denuded of these massive phrases and expostulations to which we are subjected from time to time. Let us have a statement in clear and unequivocal language.

It is on that basis that I move the amendment, and I repeat what I said when I began. There was no other course open to obtain from this government its views and the attitude of the administration. We tried to have by agreement discussion for a day or two on these matters. That was refused. We tried to bring about the convening of the foreign affairs committee, to bring before it those two Canadians, one of whom on the C.B.C. and the other in the *Montreal Star*, who by what they stated, if it is true, delivered up to all the world Canada's reputation for fairness and justice.

The criticism by these two men, who bear good reputations, deprived Canada of being in a neutral position on the International Control Commission. These two men should be given the opportunity to tell their story. If what they said is not true it should be so branded, but if it is true it is the utmost condemnation of this government. It shows that this government has been playing at walking down the centre of the street and pretending to do business on both sides of the street.

Therefore I move, seconded by the hon. member for Ontario (Mr. Starr):

That all the words after "that" be deleted and the following substituted therefor:

"This house regrets that, despite repeated requests by honourable members, the government has neglected or refused to make available time to debate international problems which are so serious and dangerous that they could lead to world war III and further regrets that the government has failed to state the policies of our country with clarity, without uncertainty and unequivocally with regard