

*External Affairs—Korea*

few days. What is important is that there seems little doubt that the sentiment expressed in this house is the sentiment of the people of Canada whom we represent. That sentiment seems to be unreservedly behind such collective action at this time as will offer the one hope of peace that is before us. This being so, I do not think we should leave this house today with any lack of appreciation of the full seriousness of the events of those past two days.

The United States, as the only nation with effective military forces within the area where aggression has occurred, has taken action which has already produced significant results. That action, however, has been action on behalf of the United Nations, which is represented in that area through a commission which was charged with the responsibility for administering the area. Anything that is done there will be action on behalf of the United Nations, as pointed out by the Prime Minister in the remarks he has just made. What is of vital importance and vital concern to every one of us is that more than the use of military force has been committed within these past few days. The whole prestige of the United Nations has been committed. Our prestige and the prestige of every member nation are committed by these events. On the outcome of this issue in Korea depends the future effectiveness of the United Nations. For that reason it is not only the fate of South Korea that hangs in the balance; it is the fate of the United Nations, the fate of that organization upon which the hope of peace in the years ahead now rests.

Had it been necessary, any of us could have made these remarks in discussing the supply bill this morning. For that reason I should like to point out that we shall presently be dealing with a supply bill which includes very large sums for national defence. Under the terms of that bill additional expenditures can be made and additional commitments undertaken if that becomes necessary. Before we leave here today I think it should be said in this chamber that in the light of world events every hon. member, I feel sure, will support such action as is necessary to bring our defence forces to the highest state of effectiveness.

This morning I saw in a press report from Korea a short statement which, it seems to me, casts a warning light upon the consideration of defence measures in times like these. There was in that statement a tragic explanation of the rapid advance of the North Korean forces. It explained that the morale of the southern troops was excellent, but that having regard to the mountainous nature of the country, interspersed with paddy fields, it had

been not thought practicable or necessary to supply the southern forces with tanks and other heavy equipment. This report emphasized that the psychological effect of heavy tanks in the possession of the northern forces had a great deal to do with the sudden weakening of the southern line. It then went on to say that one division of Southern Koreans had dealt effectively with that situation. They had suddenly organized suicide squads. Volunteers had gone into action against the tanks with dynamite strapped to their bodies. By these supreme acts of heroism, the tanks had been stopped by units of that division. With all the lessons of the past few years, and with all the courage of our people, neither here in Canada nor elsewhere do we want to see the necessity arise for suicide squads to replace armoured equipment which could be produced by the greatest industrial nations of the world. For that reason I urge that every step now be taken to equip with the most modern aircraft, the most modern armour and the most modern weapons those gallant young men and women who wear the uniform of Canada. There are ways in which this can be done.

While we are waiting for production to give us the arms, the equipment and the armour that we need, it should be possible for us to make arrangements with the United States or Great Britain for certain types of equipment which we then could replace at a later date. But, Mr. Speaker, it seems to me that, in the light of events as they are before us today, the one thought that must be in the minds of all of us is that every step that can be taken by this government to bring our armed forces up to a state of effective organization, in being, for whatever situation we might be called upon to face, is the number one priority of the government in the days and weeks ahead.

When we shall not be meeting in this House of Commons the people of Canada should be kept fully informed from day to day by the government as to events which may affect the lives of every one of us. I hope that the people of Canada, because they are the ones who will be directly concerned, will be fully informed by the government, and particularly by the Department of National Defence, as to steps which have been taken to bring to the greatest measure of effectiveness the highly disciplined and highly skilled units which we possess.

Once again I emphasize what I said before: that the preparations we are making today, the collective action which is taking place in Korea, is for the purpose of preserving peace; and everything we do to increase the effectiveness of our defence forces in Canada