

Proceedings on Adjournment Motion

be Colonel Blimps in present circumstances speaking very forcefully on behalf of peace. I thought at the time: I wish some of the United States labour leaders could be here to listen to the colonels of various armies who have fought in war taking a much stronger stand on behalf of world peace than many of them have done. The Prime Minister (Mr. Pearson) had intended to be there to deliver an address. Unfortunately, because of his illness, he was unable to be present. But the Minister of Veterans Affairs (Mr. Teillet) delivered his address for him and, I may say, did a very good job and was well received by the audience.

I have the text of the address here. It was one of the best speeches which has been made on this question for a long time, in my opinion, and I listened to every word with great attention. I was so interested that yesterday I rose in the house, after giving the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Martin) notice, to ask two questions. I thought it would be well worth while to hear from the Secretary of State on this subject. In asking these questions I quoted from page eight of the Prime Minister's text which stated:

For the United Nations to secure a valid mandate to intervene with effect anywhere in the world, its membership should include states everywhere in the world.

I then asked the minister whether he would inform the house, in view of this statement, what the government was doing at the present time to promote the recognition of mainland China and its admission to the United Nations. I had intended to ask the minister—but I was nipped in the bud—a second question based on the same excellent speech. Here is the quotation I gave:

The first concrete step in this direction would be a cease-fire, or a more formal armistice agreement, put into effect as part of a wider pattern of peace negotiations without prior conditions.

● (10:00 p.m.)

Once the cease fire was in effect and as negotiations progressed, equivalent and phased withdrawals from South Viet Nam by North Viet Nam and by the forces of other governments could take place under international supervision.

Then I intended to ask the minister this question: Can he inform the house, in view of government support for United States policy in Viet Nam, what the government is doing at the present time to promote a formal armistice agreement which provides for withdrawal of all the foreign forces from South Viet Nam?

[Mr. Herridge.]

I shall look forward to the minister's reply to these two interesting questions, prompted by a very interesting, and to me a very excellent speech, which received the applause of all delegates present. When the meeting concluded several of the delegates from countries in Africa and the Middle East expressed to me how pleased they were with the contents of this speech and its general approach to the international situation at this time.

Hon. Paul Martin (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, first I want to thank my hon. friend for agreeing to have this matter come up tonight instead of last night. The Prime Minister's statement, which the hon. member has quoted, is a statement of fact which lies behind Canada's support for the principle of universality in the United Nations.

We have consistently supported that principle on the grounds that if the United Nations is to be an effective organ of international opinion it must be able to bring all the members of the international community within the framework of the responsibilities and obligations laid down in the charter. But this is not merely a principle we support in the abstract. It is an objective which we have carried closer to ultimate achievement.

As the hon. member will recall, it was Canada which was instrumental in 1955 in breaking the deadlock which was then barring a substantial number of countries from membership in the United Nations. The achievement of universality, as I told the General Assembly last autumn, remains our firm objective and we would hope that progress could be made toward achieving it as soon as possible.

In the particular case of communist China I have expressed Canada's support for the view of the Secretary General of the United Nations, that it is in the interests of the international community to have communist China exposed to the currents and cross-currents of international opinion to a much greater degree than is now the case. I have in the past recognized that communist China's co-operation is necessary if we are to solve a number of problems in the realm of international peace and security and, in spite of the discouraging attitudes communist China has taken on a number of such questions, this remains the government's view.

Nevertheless we must recognize that part of the difficulty of the question of communist China's participation in the United Nations