

External Affairs

I commend that picture to their attention because of the extraordinary similarity of it to a picture which appeared after Ribbentrop had signed an agreement on behalf of Germany on that fateful day of August 26, 1939.

So far as that memorandum was concerned, the Secretary of State for External Affairs did make it available to me, but I want it known that I am not informed secretly of any information which would assist me in understanding what course the government is likely to take in the light of subsequent events, and it is within that period that there have been important events. Certainly we have gained no information from the three speeches made by the Secretary of State for External Affairs that would assist us in that respect.

An hon. Member: Mumbo-jumbo.

Mr. Pouliot: Jumbo yourself.

Mr. Smith (Calgary West): Jumbo's baby.

Mr. Fraser: He has not opened the window yet.

Mr. Drew: The Secretary of State for External Affairs has tried to create the impression that General McNaughton's statement was simply a personal statement in regard to what was taking place at Lake Success. General McNaughton cannot divest himself of his official position. He is there as an official appointed by the Canadian government, and he is still Canadian representative on the atomic energy commission of the United Nations. He still is the chairman of the Canadian section of the permanent joint board on defence. He occupies these official positions, and he cannot on one occasion wear the cloak that indicates his responsibility in that respect, and on another occasion divest himself of it.

The Secretary of State for External Affairs says that General McNaughton was referring to the discussions of a group dealing with atomic energy questions. General McNaughton was referring to the walkout of the Soviet delegates and of the delegates of the satellite nations—and this was not just once; there were fifteen walkouts from different committees. When the Secretary of State for External Affairs indicates that Canada is not concerned, I should think Canada should be very much concerned about this pressure that is being exerted to have the other nations bow to their will in a matter of this kind. It is not something that might take place; it is something that has taken place. And when we talk of the position that Canada would be in if they did it, I say they have done it. They have walked out, and they have walked out for the particular purpose of asserting their position in regard to the Chinese situation.

What I said the other night, and what I repeat now, is that this is a form of blackmail; and if the other nations accede to that procedure, then the discussions there will become practically meaningless. I said the other night, and I repeat today, that Russia has a way of presenting its case. It can make arguments; it has a right to make arguments if it does not think that the present Chinese representative should be there and that the representative of Mao should be there, and that that is the way they should proceed.

No; I never suggested that Canada should walk out. As the Secretary of State for External Affairs has said, it would be an absurd suggestion; and frankly I think it is absurd for him even to indicate that anyone would think of it. We do not suggest that for one moment. What was being suggested was that this is a new set of events since Great Britain and India recognized the Mao regime.

Let me come back to the statement of General McNaughton. The Secretary of State for External Affairs has read it. It states:

Unfortunately the further progress of these meetings has been held up by the Soviet refusal to participate as long as the Chinese delegate represented the nationalist government. However there is reason to expect that the meetings will again be resumed shortly when this difficulty has been overcome.

What I said when I mentioned this before, and what I say again, is that General McNaughton's words on that occasion have no meaning unless they were intended to imply that this difficulty, the presence of the present Chinese representative, would only be disposed of by his being replaced by a representative of the Mao regime. The Secretary of State for External Affairs nods his head in seeming approval. That is exactly what I said the other night, and it is what I say now. General McNaughton was saying that the Soviet delegate and those supporting him were pointing out that we were holding things up. The Secretary of State for External Affairs says nothing is being held up. General McNaughton said, "further progress of these meetings has been held up." Well, perhaps he does not know, but he is the Canadian representative at those meetings. He is referring to a situation which relates to fifteen separate acts which were part of a common pattern.

The Secretary of State for External Affairs went on to deal with the question of recognition. He said we have to distinguish between a government whose authority is being challenged, and a government which has just been formed; also that there is a difference between the recognition of a state and the recognition of a new government. He said