

to strengthen that bridge. If there is such a bridge, it has been made possible by the accession of India, Pakistan and Ceylon, which was in its turn the result of an act of constructive abdication by the United Kingdom in India in 1947. Now, this evolving process is about to shift to Africa. On March 6 next we shall welcome a new member into the Commonwealth, the State of Ghana, at present known as the Gold Coast. It will be the first native African member, and its progress as an independent nation inside the Commonwealth will be watched with great interest throughout Africa and Asia, and also in the West and by the Soviet Union.

Ghana will probably be the first of a series of new members to emerge from the continents of Africa and Asia. It may be that by 1960 and 1962 the Commonwealth will include also Malaya, Nigeria, the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland, and nearer home the Caribbean Federation.

Thus the process of what I might call creative withdrawal continues to the special credit and indeed to the glory of the heart and centre of the Commonwealth, the United Kingdom. As has been said, "The smaller the Empire the greater the Commonwealth." New nations arise from former colonial territories to take their place among the free democracies of the world. As an older member of the Commonwealth Canada is proud, I am sure, to assist in welcoming these young countries, as they attain independence, to our growing family and to assure them of our friendship and our support.

A second factor influencing Canadian foreign policy, Mr. Speaker, is the United Nations, now going through a testing period that will have far-reaching effects on this future as an organization effective for the promotion of international peace, security and justice.

It should, I think, be clear to us that so long as we try to discharge our obligations we have accepted under the United Nations Charter we must by that fact accept some limitation on our complete independence in international affairs. There are now 80 members in the United Nations Assembly with widely varied resources, traditions and political experience. The Assembly's decisions which are, after all, merely recommendations and not laws, although this is sometimes forgotten, necessarily involve a great deal of give and take. We cannot expect always to have our own way on matters which are decided by the wisdom, or if you like the unwisdom, of a majority of 80 sovereign states with differing interests, differing loyalties and unfortunately with different conceptions of peace and justice.

The activities of the United Nations Assembly in recent weeks in regard to the Middle East have given us some ground for hope that the Organization can be used effectively and swiftly in bringing about a cessation of hostilities, though it remains to be seen whether it will be as effective in bringing about a