

objective judgment and action. In this respect we are, I think, very fortunate in having a good deal of credit on which to draw for use with both the United States and the United Kingdom Governments and we should, of course, try not to dissipate it. A quick way to do that would be to issue bad cheques on that credit; and that applies to other countries, of course, in their relations with us.

These long term trends are continuing to emphasize the growing responsibility of Canada and other governments in the field of international relations, and in particular the responsibilities without our own governmental framework of the Department of External Affairs. In conditions of tension and cold war a country's foreign service is unquestionably a part of its first line of defence.

I wish to say something about the international situation within which the government's external policy has to operate. A few weeks ago, in connection with the debate on the accession of the Federal Republic of Germany to NATO, the House had a full discussion of the situation in Europe, which I take it need not be repeated on this occasion. I might say, however, that since that time the process of ratification of the Paris Agreements has gone ahead and at the present time, Parliamentary action has been completed in respect of that ratification by the United Kingdom, the Federal Republic of Germany, Norway, Iceland, Portugal, Greece, Turkey, Italy and Canada.

The final stage - I devoutly hope it will be the final stage - in Parliamentary consideration of this matter in Paris is taking place today and tomorrow. I think, that action will be taken within the next day or so by the French Government, with similar action to be taken by a few other governments, which would then make possible the restoration of freedom and sovereignty for the Federal Republic of Germany and the accession of that government to the Atlantic community.

I think that on this particular occasion hon. members would wish me to concentrate on the Far East, where after all the majority of mankind live and which at this moment provides more than one area of tension.

I believe it is advisable to examine these tensions against the proper background of political and economic movement. I suppose from the long term point of view the most significant of all political developments of the past decade, or indeed possibly the past quarter century, has been the national awakening of the hundreds of millions in those nations and their insistent demand for economic, social and political progress for a better life.

The emergence of Asian independent states in India, Pakistan, Ceylon, Burma, the Philippines, Indonesia, Korea, Viet Nam, Laos and Cambodia, may well have the greatest possible significance to the future of humanity. So, too, but in a different way, may be development of a strong, centralized, despotic, communistic regime on the mainland of China. Canada has welcomed the growth of national freedom and democracy among the peoples of Asia, but the spread of