

External Affairs

editorials in friendly newspapers in the United States as well as very bitter editorials in newspapers of the United States which are not quite so friendly. I have also read editorials in those newspapers of the United States which seem to take an unholy joy in trying to create distrust of the government of the United Kingdom in spite of all that they have done in the past few years and for centuries in the cause of freedom. Whatever the purpose may have been, let no member of this house suggest that there has not been an unfortunate interpretation placed upon these remarks. However, these remarks are past as long as they remain past, and as long as they remain a closed book which is forgotten in the positive evidence we give at all times in the future that our great desire is to build unity and friendship on the widest and strongest basis not only with the governments of the United Kingdom and the nations of the commonwealth, but with the government of the United States which shares to such a great extent common ideas and common habits of thought and speech.

Whatever our differences in regard to domestic policy in Canada may be, I would hope that we can find common ground upon positive and clearly defined international policies which at all times will make it possible to state the Canadian position as one and indivisible. If the government gives clear, certain and positive leadership along sound and constructive lines fully understood by the members of this house and by the people of Canada, then I am sure that there will be support from all parts of this house and from all parts of Canada for policies designed to create the greatest measure of international harmony, unity and good will. Behind policies of that kind there will be a united House of Commons, and there will be a united Canada.

Mr. Hansell: If the minister is going to reply at eight o'clock, I should like to ask one question. According to this evening's paper it appears that the situation in Iran is growing worse. In his reply would the minister mind telling the house what Canada's position is with respect to that situation, or what the United Nations' position may be, Canada being a member thereof.

At six o'clock the house took recess.

AFTER RECESS

The house resumed at eight o'clock.

Mr. Speaker: If the minister speaks now, he will close the debate.

Hon. L. B. Pearson (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, the house will, I know, expect me, in winding up what has been a very interesting discussion on this resolution, to deal with some of the detailed points that have arisen in the course of that discussion. I shall also try to make a few general observations before I sit down. In his speech before we rose this afternoon, the leader of the official opposition (Mr. Drew), indicated, and I agree with him, that the diplomacy of Canada should be conducted in a frank way, but without provocation. He also indicated, and I certainly agree with him, that our foreign policy should be clear and decisive; that parliament and the people of Canada have the right to know where the government stands on the big issues in foreign affairs in these difficult, and indeed dangerous, times.

He said that we did not know that in 1914, and we did not know it in 1939, but if that knowledge had been possessed by the dictators of those years it might have been that war could have been avoided. He believed we should not make the same mistake this time. I do not believe, Mr. Speaker, that we are making that mistake. This time I believe those who would disturb the peace know where those stand who would defend the peace. This afternoon the leader of the opposition said our obligations are precise and definite under the North Atlantic treaty organization. There is no room for any illusion in the breast of any dictator as to what will happen if he commits aggression against any member of that organization. We also know that the charter of the United Nations is more than words, and that the United Nations can act as well as talk. What is happening in Korea today certainly proves that.

The leader of the opposition went on to say the government should tell more to parliament and to the people of Canada about its policies. I agree that frank and full information should be made available in these times to the people of Canada in regard to their foreign policy, and in regard to the manner in which the government is conducting its diplomacy. This government tries, I believe, Mr. Speaker, to do just that. We do not need to apologize about the way we are explaining to the people of our country our policies in the field of international relations. I would have welcomed an application of that principle of full and frank information this afternoon by the leader of the opposition, especially in regard to the attitude of the official opposition to the developments in the Far East, more particularly in Korea and in China. I would