

*External Affairs*

capitals and thereby influence the course of events, and I hope in the right direction.

Our effectiveness in this regard, however, will depend not only on the way we accept and discharge our own international responsibilities but also on the reputation that we acquire and maintain for sound and 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 within 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.

Now, Mr. Speaker, 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, Mr. Speaker, 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, Japan, 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 the 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 communism in China and indeed in other parts of Asia and the actions of the communist rulers of the Peking regime that has now secured effective control of the Chinese mainland have caused deep and understandable anxiety in our own country and indeed in the whole of the non-communist world. At three points on the periphery of China there has been armed conflict in recent years, and in each case this has threatened the peace of the world. These three points are, of course, Indo-China, Korea and Formosa. I shall have something to say about each of these areas in a few minutes, but first I think it is important to put all of this in the framework of the growth of communism in Asia; which has ambitions to control and exploit the Asian peoples through a strong and autocratic communistic government in Peking. This problem of communism in Asia is certainly not a simple one, and there are no simple solutions for it. It will not be solved by merely denouncing it, and certainly not by ignoring it. It is more important to try and understand its origins and purposes and to discover the sources of its support.

The communist movement in Asia is not simply a conspiracy of evil and alien forces seeking power and domination; unfortunately it is more than that. It has secured too many followers who see in it, at least until they have acquired some experience of its workings in government, a means of improving the welfare and happiness of their own people and ensuring their freedom from western pressure and control. Therefore I feel we shall not make much appeal to the peoples of Asia unless we make clear to them that while we denounce communistic doctrines and methods we wholeheartedly support the ideals of these people for liberation from hunger, misery and outside domination.