

*External Affairs*

is that German exports have failed, and two million are unemployed. People with money are eating and living well, while a large percentage of the population is in misery. There you have the seedbed for some form of totalitarianism. Consequently you see rising in Germany again the old nazi party under a new form. You see too an increase in the influence of communism. What is true in Western Germany is true in Italy, and to some degree also in France. Therefore I say we have to see to it that we give close attention to economic relationships, and assist those countries to build up their economies so that they can resist the spread of soviet communist or fascist control in those countries. I firmly believe that Canada's whole safety and whole defence is linked of course with the improvement in conditions in Asia, in Europe and indeed across the world.

I was going to say something once again about atomic power and the hydrogen bomb, that fearful weapon with which the world is threatened at the present time; but I do not think I will do so this afternoon, because another opportunity will arise in the near future. What I did want to do today was to try to put in focus in my own mind, and, if I could, place in focus before the house the international situation as I see it, and the desirability for the recognition of China as I see and understand it. We cannot forget of course that the Chinese people were on our side during the great struggle that ended in 1945. When we look back over the last hundred and ten years or so, since the British obtained possession of Hong Kong, and other nations obtained great concessions on the mainland of China, we cannot forget the record that we have. It is not a record that we can look back on with satisfaction. We have to try to obliterate the black spots in that record and do everything we can to help the people of China and the people of the other nations of southeast Asia, of India, of Pakistan, of Indonesia, of Indo-China and the other countries of Asia, to build up their economies, to improve their standards of living, and to aid them in every way we can, giving them as far as we are able assistance in the way of food and other supplies that they need for their economic life. If we can do that we shall have done far more to defend ourselves from aggression, to defend the world from the totalitarian regimes, than we can do by building up armies, navies and air forces to defend our territorial integrity.

**Mr. J. H. Blackmore (Leithbridge):** Mr. Speaker, we in this group support the minister's resolution to refer the estimates of his department to the committee on external affairs. That practice has been followed for some years past with considerable success.

[Mr. Coldwell.]

Before commencing what I was going to say I should like to refer to the quotation from Anthony Eden that was put on the record by the leader of the opposition (Mr. Drew). He noted that Eden had said that the great need of southeastern Asia was mainly economic. Now, everyone at all well-informed on earth knows that. Why it should be such an important thing for him to say it I cannot quite understand. How to give the needy help is the inescapable question. It is a question that must have an unequivocal answer, an answer conveying a practicable method, adequate and realistic. Such an answer, Mr. Speaker, has not been even hinted at by any of the political figures authorized to speak for any one of the western nations from the United States down. This conspicuous fact must fill every less fortunate nation and people with a feeling akin to dismay, even to despair.

I do not quite see, Mr. Speaker, why it is that responsible officials, from the Secretary of State for External Affairs, all through the Canadian government, and similar figures in the other governments, do not realize this. What is the matter with them? Are they afraid? Do they not dare come out and say what they think ought to be done and how it should be done? Are they restrained by some outside force from facing realities as they should be faced?

If I were in another nation, say France, I would find this indisposition to be frank, not facing the future and speaking about events as they are, as one of the great causes of the troubles with which we are faced.

Let us examine our national neighbourhood. We are discussing external affairs. What sort of people are we living among internationally? May we consider somewhat realistically some of the important neighbours whose actions must modify our own? This is the question to which I should like to devote what time I am permitted this afternoon in the house. First, let us look at the United States. "America's Needs and Resources," a very important and authentic publication of 1947, contains at page 675 a statement to this effect, that the capacity of United States agriculture will be more than equal to any conceivable requirement.

First may I say this concerning the United States. One impressive fact about the United States to me as just an ordinary Canadian and a member of parliament, as the United States occupies her place in the world's economy, is the tremendous productive potential or capacity of that country. I said the other night that I thought the Prime Minister (Mr. St. Laurent) went down to the United States and was impudent in