

right thing had suddenly gone berserk and been guilty of armed robbery, with assault and battery thrown in. They could not understand it. They said: Here is a nation to which we have always looked, the Mother of Parliaments, which in world affairs has always been on the side of the down-trodden. The British delegates took a terrific bombardment during the first few days of the conference, but they did not say very much. Strangely enough, there was little mention of the co-partners in crime, the French or the Israelis. Even Mr. Nehru, though he spoke in much more diplomatic language, was extremely critical. These addresses set the pattern of discussion in the opening ten days of a highly charged political atmosphere.

Fuel was added to the emotional fire by an impassioned speech by the delegate from Egypt, who said, "I am the only delegate from my country because the others were prevented from getting here as a result of the British bombing of Cairo." He went on to say, "As I stand in this conference hall addressing this assembly I cannot help but wonder what is happening to my wife and my eleven-year-old child under the rain of British bombs in Cairo." Well, he went on in that vein. We got to know him later on; he appeared a very decent chap and you could make some allowances for the emotional situation in which he found himself. There was not the same excuse for the Syrian delegate who followed him, however. He was completely unrestrained in his condemnation of the aggression and according to him the traitorous action of the British, French and Israelis. Added to that was the fact that scattered through the corridors was the odd radio receiving set, over which Radio Cairo could be heard blaring away with the most fantastic tales of British bombings and atrocities against defenceless women and children. It is true that the B.B.C. was coming in equally well, but the quiet well-modulated voice of the B.B.C. announcer by its very restraint seemed to fail in an adequate rebuttal.

Now, added to this situation was another calculated to keep the political atmosphere sizzling. This was a motion interjected by the U.S.S.R. to prevent the seating of the Formosa Chinese delegation, and the reasons put forward for not seating the delegation were two:

I. That the Government which sponsored this delegation did not represent the people of China because another government did.

II. That technically they were not entitled to be seated because they had not paid their membership dues for the last five years and were \$500,000 in arrears.

The Formosa Chinese delegation was ultimately seated but many delegates felt the whole wrangle did not reflect the conference in a very favourable light.

It was in this tense and politically super-charged atmosphere, and after 57 delegations had spoken, that Mr. Brockington, the leader of the Canadian delegation took the rostrum. The papers referred to him as "the aged and eloquent leader". This reference to Mr. Brockington as aged greatly amused the other members of the Canadian delegation, for he is only 69. While I cannot take the time to quote in detail what he said, he caught the ear of the conference at once and he was responsible, I think, more than any other person for breaking the tense political atmosphere of the conference as it existed at that time, and getting the conference back to the discussion of subject-matters for which it was called, namely, the educational, scientific and cultural development of the world.

Mr. Brockington made two statements which I shall emphasize. First, he stressed the role of freedom and free discussion in a democratic world; and secondly, Canada's role as a composite of many races dedicated to the free development of the human race.

In connection with the first point he said:

Perhaps we can all take some comfort from the knowledge that even today no stronger criticism of the disputed policy of the British Government, no freer or more vigorous denunciation of its dangers has anywhere been spoken or written than in famous British newspapers freely published in Britain itself, in public meetings freely assembled, in earnest debates freely held in a free British Parliament and wherever men gather in Britain to hammer out the truth on the anvil of free discussion.

Every time he used the word "free" he emphasized it with all his might and the point was not lost among the delegates.

His second point emphasized Canada's peculiar appeal to peoples from other lands and at the same time stressed the *raison d'être* for the conference being held at all. He said:

We in Canada who are the beneficiaries of the gifts of so many other people believe that there is only one race in the world which is really important and that is the human race. We are determined to pay with reverence our debt to humanity.

These were the two key paragraphs in Mr. Brockington's opening address which, mind you, was the 57th address in that conference. He stressed the humanitarian note, he reminded one and all that we were there not for a political discussion, but to discuss something much more important—the educational, cultural and scientific development of mankind.

I think most of the delegates would agree with me that from this point on the political atmosphere of the conference was reduced