

of the free world have for some time prohibited the export, to the Soviet bloc, of armaments, commodities of strategic importance and materials in short supply. This is a policy of elementary common sense. The export of these strategic commodities to Soviet communist countries has been reduced to a trickle and efforts are constantly being made to stop any illegal traffic that still exists. There should be no division of opinion on this policy.

It is quite another matter, however, to cut off all trade in products which cannot be used for war purposes. International trade has always been a major avenue for establishing relations with other countries. Although these relations may have, at times, given rise to disputes, the fact that trade can be carried on only when it is mutually beneficial for both buyer and seller has made it desirable to maintain the best possible commercial relations with important market areas or important sources of supply. In the past, the cutting off of all trade relations with a country has been regarded as an indication of open hostility, and of the virtual certainty of that hostility breaking out shortly into open war. Neither the Canadian Government nor, I believe, the Canadian people would consider it wise to cut themselves off irrevocably from the peoples of the countries under Soviet domination unless, of course, the policies of their governments leave us no other choice. That would be a final diplomatic step to take. Finality in diplomacy - which is something more than decisiveness and firmness - is unwise unless it is forced on you.

Canada has no aggressive feelings or intentions toward the peoples of communist states. We wish that the policies and purposes of their governments were such as to make it possible for us to conduct mutually advantageous trade relations with them. Such trade might conceivably help to remove some of the fear and distrust which has now been planted in them by their rulers. This aspect of our commercial policy in the present situation should not be based on despair. On the other hand, it should not be based on innocence. We must not allow our passion for peace to blind us to realities, and one such reality, I am afraid, is the fixed hostility of communist governments which can and does express itself in commercial as well as political matters.

The free world is building up its strength in order to make it patently clear to the Soviet communist world that we will brook no further aggression. We fully recognize that the future peace of the world depends to a very large extent on the realization in Russia and the satellite countries that they cannot resort to war for the furtherance of their expansionist aims without tragic consequences for them; that the free peoples will defend themselves with all the military and economic might they possess. This, however, does not mean, in my view, that we must stop every form of commercial intercourse with Soviet Communist countries; but merely that we will not allow such trade to contribute to aggression, or to the strengthening of the forces - economic and political - that make for aggression. We will trade when it is to our political and economic advantage to do so, having regard to our obligations to our friends and allies as well as to ourselves. That policy seems to me to make sense. The iron curtain, let us not forget, is theirs, not ours. There is, in fact, much to be said for the view, stated in New York on Friday last by Senator Brian McMahon,