

*External Affairs*

of all areas of diplomatic conflict in the world. Here 1954 will be a decisive year. It will be a year for that reason of vast importance to Canada. Happily we see in NATO growing strength; we see substantial accomplishments, but we must not rest on those accomplishments. German rearmament was decided upon a year and a half ago. For this problem the solution offered was of a European army, with German units integrated into it. The feeling of the United States government is that the ratification of EDC on the part of all the nations concerned is imperative. The predominant feeling in Great Britain, and certainly the policy of the government of the United Kingdom, is to bring about that ratification of EDC and the setting up of a European army as soon as possible. In Germany lies the biggest untouched reservoir of manpower available to the free world.

The feeling in France is an understandable feeling. The spirit of nationalism is still strong in the French army. The memory of three invasions within the lifetime of some Frenchmen will never be effaced, and there is very great distrust there of the idea of a European army. Bear in mind, sir, it is not an allied army that is proposed. It is something quite different from any army that has ever existed before. The weakness of the French state today is attributable in part to the gigantic losses of France in both world wars, and to the way in which she is being bled of manhood and treasure in Indo-China as well as to the presence of a large number of communists in France today.

The most signal event in the history of Europe in 1953 was unquestionably the resounding victory won at the polls by Chancellor Adenauer, and with it the complete endorsement by the people of the western German republic of the whole idea of a European army and the German rearmament associated with it. We have the opportunity of judging how important to the western nations is the fulfilment of the dream of ratification of EDC and the establishment of the European army, when we see the stratagems and machinations that the Russians are resorting to in an attempt to prevent ratification of EDC at all costs. In recent months their tactics have all been directed towards restraining France from proceeding with the task of ratification. Now again, one can understand the feelings of the French in this regard. But, Mr. Speaker, the central issue in international affairs in 1954, so far as Europe is concerned, will be the question of ratification and the establishment of the European army. The Russians know it. Their whole tactics in recent times show how well they realize that if this important step is taken then their

hopes of expanding the area of aggression and the march of the iron curtain westward are stopped in Europe.

If there are alternate plans, Mr. Speaker, as the Secretary of State for External Affairs seemed to permit himself to hint today when he said that EDC ought to be ratified or something like it, then he ought to take the house into his confidence in this matter. Here, we are dealing with something that is of primary importance to the peace of the world.

Today the Prime Minister told us almost nothing about NATO. Sir Gladwyn Jebb, in a speech from which I quoted earlier, said this:

NATO is the shield and buckler of the west and without it we should lose all our freedom . . . If war should come it is in such organization as the NATO that our trust must primarily be placed.

That came from a man who has in recent years represented the United Kingdom on the security council of the United Nations. He was saying in the plainest terms that if war should come our hope of preservation must lie with NATO.

There was one statement that came from the Prime Minister's tour on which he made little or no comment today. This is a dispatch from Paris dated February 9:

Although the discussion was held in the strictest privacy,—

That is a discussion between the Prime Minister and General Gruenther at SHAPE headquarters.

—it was reliably reported that Canada's Prime Minister gave General Gruenther his solemn assurance that Canada would increase its contribution if the international situation should become any worse.

This afternoon the Prime Minister touched on this subject very briefly. He did not say that he was relating it especially to the report that emanated from Paris to which I have just now made reference. I do hope before this debate has run its course, either the Prime Minister or the Secretary of State for External Affairs will make a clear statement on this point for the information of the house.

I turn now, sir, to Asia. Since the cease-fire our thoughts have been turning, it seems to me, more from Korea to China. Let us recall that all that has been accomplished in Korea is a cease-fire with a retirement of the forces to the rear of a widened no-man's-land and then an agreement, not then immediately entered into but since, for a conference on Asian affairs to be held at Geneva. In the meantime, sixteen nations including Canada have signed a pledge that if aggression should be renewed in Korea,