

External Affairs

relations that bind us to France, Canada had deemed it proper, because of its sense of duty and logic, to vote in favour of the resolution asking for a stop to nuclear tests.

Furthermore, what the Secretary of State for External Affairs said, last Wednesday, should be recalled to the house, and you may be assured, Mr. Speaker, that a French-speaking Canadian is particularly proud to repeat the following words loudly, and I quote from page 934 of *Hansard* February 10, 1960:

I suggest that Canada must at all times have the deepest understanding for France and for her problems. She, of course, is one of our mother countries, and one feels that when he goes to her shores. I am of Anglo-Saxon descent, and yet when I went to Paris, in fact the minute I stepped off the plane, I felt that I was at home with members of the family. We were treated in just that way on both occasions that I had the privilege of visiting France.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I express the unlimited hope the world has placed in the disarmament program, and the benefits that will result therefrom. I recall the pride that Canadians feel at the thought of the important role our country is assuming in world affairs.

To sum up, in order to safeguard world peace, let us hope that the spiritual and moral values of mankind will develop at the same rate as material knowledge and scientific progress.

(Text):

Mr. L. D. Crestohl (Cartier): Mr. Speaker, like many hon. members I too was intrigued by the minister's very pleasant invitation to a wide open, free-swinging debate. He said that he would like to see as many members as possible participate in the debate and that he would speak off the cuff. Largely he did speak off the cuff but I find that in a debate on a subject such as external affairs there are some very precise things that perhaps have to be said. Therefore it was understandable that the minister should refer to his notes when he did make certain precise statements. Because of the very nature of the debate and the minister's invitation, I know he will take with good grace whatever constructive criticism I may, in my humble way, have to offer. The minister knows that almost from the first day when I came into the house 10 years ago I have always held him in very high esteem and do so at the present time. However, I shall take his advice and perhaps be a little more free-swinging than

I otherwise would. When I make some precise statements, as I shall want to do, I too will refer to some of my notes.

The first thing the minister did, and very properly, was to pay a compliment to our diplomatic corps abroad. The minister was quite correct. Our foreign diplomats certainly deserve to be congratulated and to receive the recognition of the house and the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Green). We have a fine diplomatic corps abroad. Recently I have had occasion to meet a good number of our ambassadors, high commissioners and their staffs, and I certainly confirm everything the minister has had to say in lauding their efforts. These people have to be our eyes and our ears outside of Canada. We depend much upon them to win the sympathy and friendship of the people and countries in which they are stationed. I should like to point out to the minister, and I do not have to say this to him but I should like to say it to some hon. members who have not been in the house very long, that it takes years of hard training, careful training, to develop a diplomatic corps that will reflect credit on our country. Let me point out to hon. members that this wonderful diplomatic corps of which we are so proud today was not established and trained only within the last 2½ years.

Mr. Mandziuk: You trained them.

Mr. Crestohl: Indeed, yes, we trained them. Certainly, over the past 10, 15 or 20 years they received training and they are the people who deserve the praise they received from the minister. Perhaps if some of the members sometimes complain that they have inherited a certain legacy from the Liberals they might bear in mind that this is also one of the legacies they have inherited and it is certainly a wonderful legacy.

I should like to say, too, that when we travel abroad and meet our foreign diplomats and see the other countries it gives the people of Canada a far better perspective of Canada. When we have this opportunity we realize we must come to the conclusion that we are living in the most wonderful country in the world. This, too, is not something that was created in the last 2 or 2½ years, but is something that has taken years of hard work, careful work to establish. Certainly this also is a legacy that hon. members opposite should appreciate.

Over the week end, Mr. Speaker, I had the opportunity of carefully reading the minister's speech. It is true that he covered a great deal of ground and a great deal of time. However, I could not find very much solid foreign policy contained in it and even less in the way of important basic principles. Apart