

*Government Orders***GOVERNMENT ORDERS***[English]***CONFERENCE ON SECURITY AND
CO-OPERATION****SUMMIT OF HEADS OF STATE AND HEADS OF
GOVERNMENT**

Hon. Pierre Blais (for the Secretary of State for External Affairs) moved:

That, in view of the upcoming Summit of Heads of State and Heads of Government of the Participating Parties of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE) in Paris, on November 19, 1990 this House express its support for the CSCE as a key pan-European and trans-Atlantic forum within which a new co-operative security framework can be built through the maintenance and development of its comprehensive approach to security, political, economic, environmental and human dimension issues, and strengthened by the development of the structure of the CSCE process, including by the creation of a CSCE parliamentary assembly.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Pursuant to order made on Wednesday, November 7, the debate may continue until two o'clock p.m., without interruption.

Mr. Patrick Boyer (Parliamentary Secretary to Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, this debate is an important opportunity for the House once again to consider Canada's foreign policy.

I think the Secretary of State for External Affairs, in moving this resolution, has given us an important opportunity because in our country foreign policy is not a luxury issue. It is something that is fundamental to the definition of who we are as Canadians, and what our future might be.

On the eve of this forthcoming meeting which will take place on November 19 in Paris, I think it is important for members of Parliament to have the opportunity to speak out about the changes in Europe in light of the end of the cold war, and the emergence of new alignments and new possibilities there.

The Secretary of State for External Affairs has already addressed, in a rather significant statement of government policy on May 26, 1990, Canada's view of CSCE, the Conference on Co-operation and Security in Europe, in a speech at Humber College in the Etobicoke—Lakeshore constituency. This speech has since been referred to as the Lakeshore declaration.

I am sure a number of members will pick up some of the ideas from that in the course of our debate this morning.

Just as North American history would be vastly different without Europe, as any of our native peoples in this country could very clearly describe for us, so too European history would be vastly different without North America. It was to these shores that Europeans came to escape religious persecution, famine, hunger, political strife, to make a new home and new economic opportunity.

It was from these shores that, as colonies, a great amount of wealth and resource was shipped to Europe, which enabled European countries to build up their wealth and power.

In this century, Canadian men and women wearing the uniform of this country and using the resources of our country as an arsenal for democracy have more than once proven that Canadian history and European history are inexplicably linked.

As we debate this morning, on the eve of Remembrance Day across our country, many of us wear the symbolic poppy to remember the many thousands of Canadians who gave their lives or who returned to our shores carrying lifetime wounds because they had participated as Canadians in European-made wars. Therefore, we are not outsiders to what happens in Europe.

We want peace and security in Europe, because history teaches us that this governs how much peace and security we can have here. We want peace and security in Europe because the defence expenditures which we incur are no longer due to any North American threat but because of instability or the threat of conflict elsewhere.

This concept of Europe across the Atlantic is perhaps a concept more important to us as Canadians than it is to the Americans, simply because of our continued need as a smaller country that is actively engaged on a global basis to maintain balance.

I see our country in the state of transition, from the model, the institutions and the ideas of a 19th century nation-state into a 21st century international country. Certainly one aspect of this role of being an international country is participation within regional organizations and associations that stress not national boundaries, but rather stresses common security and shared interests.