The measures the government later announced on February 23, 1982, were designed to demonstrate our concerns over developments in Poland to the Polish and the Soviet authorities. These measures are well in keeping with those adopted by our NATO allies, and we remain fully committed to them.

This again illustrates the fact that we are in the mainstream, not only in the mainstream of the Canadian people, which is our most important responsibility, but also in the mainstream of the west because our sanctions and measures taken against the Soviet Union are parallel to those taken by other members of the alliance.

I would like now to say a few words about the Falklands crisis. I referred earlier to the instability of the world in which we live; I should also have added the unpredictability. The Falklands crisis illustrates the volatility of events. It also underlines the need to give more than lip service to the norms of international law, and that stability will only come when international principles are achieved in practice by all states.

The text of this motion, in so far as it concerns the situation in the Falkland Islands, suggests to me that Rip Van Winkle must have been one of the drafters because they have obviously forgotten, if they ever took the time to learn, what the Canadian position is. The resolution criticizes the government for its alleged "failure to support the United Kingdom and the rule of law in international affairs."

Let us look at the record. On the same day that Argentina began its occupation of South Georgia and the Falkland Islands on April 2, we called in the Argentine charge d'affaires to express our consternation and concern that in this day and age Argentina would resort to force to settle a territorial dispute with another country, in clear violation of Article 2—

Mr. Crosbie: Nuclear bundles.

Mr. MacGuigan: —of the Charter, which states that "all members shall settle their international disputes by peaceful means in such a manner that international peace, security and justice are not endangered." It is on this clear point of principle that Canada opposed Argentina's action and fully supported the Security Council Resolution 502.

Mr. Gamble: The strongest words you can muster.

Mr. MacGuigan: During the Security Council debate on Resolution 502, our ambassador clearly expressed Canada's position in this regard. He said:

My delegation has requested participation in the debate in order to express its shock and deep concern at the precipitous action of Argentina in resorting to force in its attack and armed occupation of the Falkland Islands.

This was followed by our decision on April 4 to recall the Canadian ambassador to Argentina for consultations, a traditional diplomatic device to demonstrate formally disapproval of another country's action.

Mr. Taylor: And left the technicians there.

Mr. MacGuigan: At the same time, the government placed an immediate embargo on the export to Argentina of all military equipment and, on April 12, followed these measures

Supply

by a ban on all imports from Argentina and on export credits for any new commercial transactions with that country.

Mr. Taylor: Still sending nuclear bundles.

Mr. MacGuigan: Our sanctions, of course, were parallel to those taken by the European Economic Community, by Australia and New Zealand and, of course, went beyond those of the United States. I might say that they were adopted without terminal date, unlike those of the European Community which had to be renewed twice and only now are like ours, without terminal date.

Both sides are obviously convinced that their claims to the Falkland Islands are just, but Britain has always been prepared to seek a peaceful solution to the dispute. Argentina, unfortunately, chose to use force in violation of the United Nations Charter, an illegal act which was so recognized by the Security Council at its emergency session on April 3 which demanded by a vote of ten to one Argentina's withdrawal and the immediate cessation of hostilities, and the beginning of negotiations between the two governments. Regrettably, not only did Argentina ignore the Security Council resolution but actually flouted it, because it proceeded to strengthen its garrisons on the Falkland Islands.

In the face of this action, as I have said, Canada joined the European Community, Australia and New Zealand to impose economic sanctions. As was explained at the time of this action, the government's principal concern was to contribute to ensuring the respect for the United Nations Charter and for the rule of international law consistent with our conviction that force must never be used to settle territorial disputes.

• (1620)

Canada has maintained this position consistently since that time in the same manner as the European Community, Australia, New Zealand and the United States. I have received on numerous occasions expressions of appreciation from the British Foreign Secretary and the British High Commissioner for Canada's forthright and robust position with respect to support for Britain.

Mr. Crosbie: A diplomatic nicety.

Mr. MacGuigan: I can assure the House that no British request for co-operation has gone unanswered.

Mr. Crosbie: Shameful. You have not offered any.

Mr. MacGuigan: Mr. Speaker, Security Council Resolution 502 calls on the governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom to seek a diplomatic solution for their differences. As the world well knows, over the past several weeks there have been intensive efforts by the two parties, by the United States Secretary of State Haig, by President Belaunde of Peru, and finally by the Secretary General of the United Nations, to bring about such a negotiated solution. Canada was asked by Peru to be associated with one such initiative and we agreed to