

bombing that wiped out whole sections of cities. We had to go to total destruction with the atomic bomb at Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

• (1250)

As we ponder this afternoon—and we will be supporting this legislation—humanizing the behaviour of combatants with respect to children and extending this treatment to combatants involved in civil insurrections and civil wars as this bill does, we should pause and think about how we can put into force international law with respect to the treatment of the innocent during times of conflagration. We should be spending far more time in attempting to bring about the end of war itself and building up statutory law of an international nature that would prevent or act as a severe sanction against any nation state precipitating a war. That is the thrust of our thinking.

I was very pleased to be a very small part of the Open Skies Conference this week. I had a chance to spend some hours at the conference centre. I congratulate the government for sponsoring this conference. Today, men and women of good will are coming together, both east and west, in an attempt to work out differences and put in place various protocols that will build confidence and establish a lasting peaceful order in Europe. A lot more has to be done in terms of the Third World and other flash points on the globe.

This legislation should be looked upon in a broader sense but also in another sense. We and the government have come out strongly in favour of extending the protocols to revolutionary movements, civil insurrection, where groups are fighting for democracy, freedom, and so on. But by the same token we find it very difficult to become involved in, or critics of, various incidents and events that are going on around the world that are contrary to peace, stability and the furtherance of democracy and liberty. I have several in mind but one would be the whole question of El Salvador.

I know that our Secretary of State for External Affairs has a different view with respect to El Salvador than does his counterpart in Washington. I am not trying for a

Government Orders

moment to link the government with Washington on the El Salvador issue. But I honestly do not think that our government is doing enough to drive home to President Bush that the number one reason for fighting, killing and destruction in El Salvador today is the financial aid given by the United States to the Salvadoran government. If that financial aid were withdrawn tomorrow that entire struggle would come to an end in very short order. We are not doing and saying enough. We are not publicizing the wretchedness of the Cristiani government.

President Bush looks upon President Cristiani of El Salvador as that “beacon of light and hope”, I think he called him, “for democracy in Latin America”. Just a few weeks ago I had the privilege of listening to a young lady by the name of Miss Ridd in my constituency on a Saturday night who described to me the horrors of the justice system in El Salvador. Anybody who is thought to be working against the interests of that awful government of Cristiani is arrested and thrown into jail. One of the most popular kinds of torture in that country is to put a gunny sack around a suspect's head; tie it at the neck but before doing so throw in a handful of lime; and then beat the person so that when they hyperventilate and breathe in the lime, it burns their lungs. It is only a matter of months before they expire after they have been released. That is the beacon of hope for democracy in Central America that Mr. Bush refers to, the ARENA administration under President Cristiani.

So, I call upon our government to be more forceful and public in its condemnation of that regime.

Another area where we have totally walked away from protocol and international law and turned a blind eye was the American invasion of Panama. With the information we have, one can only conclude that former General Noriega is involved in illicit drug traffic. Obviously, he is a thoroughly disreputable individual and he should have been captured, arrested and brought to trial, et cetera. But just because an international criminal of great infamy is at large in a country does not lend any credibility or justification to the United States—a country that purports to be a democracy—to invade that country with military force to overthrow its head of state.

We have international police forces, international law, custom, jurisprudence, rules and regulations and proto-