

country consider the sale of a nuclear reactor which could possibly be used for the spread of weapons, it should be subject to the approval of parliament.

Second, we should stop the rhetoric and get down to the facts in terms of whether we are concerned about making nuclear reactors available to countries to meet their energy needs. I have the very strong feeling that this idea has become a rationalization for the policy that Canada is following, because when you examine the countries with which Canada is having dealings, you really cannot see that they have a serious energy problem.

A classic example is Iran. Canada considered making nuclear reactors available to Iran, one of the most energy rich countries in the world. I was fascinated by the minister's reply to a question on the state of the negotiations that we are not dealing with Iran because that country broke off the arrangements. Canada did not break off the arrangements. Iran did. How can we take seriously protestations that we are making these reactors available for energy purposes when we are dealing with countries like Iran? It makes the whole thing seem totally unreal.

In addition to a requirement that parliament's approval be obtained before the sale of a reactor, the government should table in parliament, before any decision about the sale of a reactor, a report by Canadian officials on the energy needs of the country to which the sale will be made. For example, there are reports that Argentina has an immense capability for developing energy from conventional hydroelectric sources, yet we talk about selling a reactor to that country. If the government really means what it says, there should be tabled in the House of Commons an energy study on every country to which a sale is planned. And it should be made by Canadians. In that way we will really know what we are doing, or whether it is just a cover-up for the government's policy of making reactors available to anybody who will buy them.

● (1730)

Third, I agree with the hon. member for Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands that we should have an assessment of the political stability in any country in which we are planning to put reactors into place. Obviously, once again it is like the Korean situation.

Finally, we should require that Canada should own the fuel rods, as has been suggested, and that they be returned to this country when they are used. That is the ultimate control. The fact of the matter is that Canada cannot stand back and not make its technology and resources in the field of energy available to those parts of the world that need them. At the same time, Canada would be committing a sin on the people of the world certainly, and on the people of Canada, to blithely go ahead, as the government has been going ahead, and sell reactors under present circumstances.

I hope that a product of this day's discussion will be that the government reconsider the conditions under which reactors will be sold. It is clear that to date the objective has been to sell, sell, sell. This objective has to be changed. The objective must be safety and security. I trust that the Secretary of State for External Affairs will take the comments made in this debate today very seriously. This is a debate that is not a general political debate in the sense of

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the debates that take place so often in this House, but rather a cry or a plea from people who are enormously concerned about this atomic proliferation and Canada's role in it. The suggestions that have been made have been positive ones, and I hope the minister will accept them.

**Mr. Roberts:** Madam Chairman, much of the debate this afternoon has centred around the question of the sale of nuclear reactors. I wish to discuss for a few moments another question equally important and urgent, one that has been touched on briefly by hon. members this afternoon. I refer to the question of whether or not Canada should permit the entry into this country of representatives of the PLO, the Palestine Liberation Organization, to participate in the conference that is proposed to take place this autumn in Toronto on the subject of law and order. I urge on this House and on the minister responsible that in no circumstances should these representatives be allowed to enter our country.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Roberts:** I want to discuss some of the complications or implications of this issue, but I want to make it absolutely clear at the beginning of my remarks that I condemn the PLO. I believe that it is not an organization that Canadians would wish to see enter this country. Its objectives and tactics are repugnant to the moral spirit of our country. It is, at root, a moral issue. The Palestine Liberation Organization has taken as its objective the destruction of Israel, a state that we recognize and with which we are on the most friendly terms. The Palestine Liberation Organization is an organization that espouses the use of terror as a practical tactic to achieve its objectives. On both these grounds, it seems to me clear that Canada morally cannot allow these representatives to enter our country.

It is clear according to Canadian law that the Palestine Liberation Organization is a prohibited organization. For its members or representatives to enter this country would require a ministerial permit, the exercise by the minister of immigration of his permission to allow these representatives to enter Canada in face of what would otherwise be a conflict with the Canadian law. It requires the positive act of the Canadian government to allow these representatives to come into our land.

I suggest that this would be an immoral act. There is no evidence whatever, in spite of the olive branch so profusely shaken by Mr. Arafat, that this organization has abandoned its tactics of terrorism or its ultimate objective. Until it does so, I see no reason why the Canadian government should permit the entry of these people into the country, particularly in opposition to the stand that the Canadian government took at the United Nations, when it did not abstain but voted against the seating of the PLO as an observer at the United Nations. Canada objected to that seating because it found that the PLO did not meet the qualifications for membership of the United Nations; that its objectives and policies were not compatible with UN membership. That being the case, it seems to me difficult to agree that our government should now accept their entry into this country.