

interviews, in order to remind themselves of the true feelings of this Prime Minister.

Since one of the main objectives of a foreign and defence policy review is to identify new factors which will influence, or are already influencing, the kind of world we live in, and then go on to indicate the broad policy directions we should follow, there would seem to be many changes needed in the eighties. However, for the purposes of this debate, and as defence critic of my party, I will turn to two areas in particular. They are the problems of international security and of oil. In some ways these two subjects are becoming closely linked, since the availability and security of oil supplies is by no means certain, and the future supply of oil has become in a strategic military sense both more significant and more precarious since 1970.

However, I do not mean to imply that the solution to the future security of oil supplies is, or should be, seen mainly in military terms. On the contrary, the best solution for the western world from Canada's point of view would surely be one in which the oil producing states were both strong and independent, but friendly towards the west. But political factors integral to both the nationalist feelings of the peoples of the Middle East, as well as the revolutionary currents sweeping through the Moslem world, have, as we all know, changed the situation dramatically in Iran. In the Iranian revolution, the confusion and violence led to, amongst other things, a cessation of oil supplies which not only increased oil prices but, if it had continued, would have threatened the basis of the economies of many western states.

To put it bluntly, if the internal Iranian situation were to get worse again, or if another Islamic state that was a major oil producer were to experience a similar revolutionary disturbance, many countries in the world, both industrialized and non-industrialized, would suffer serious consequences simply because of the cutoff, or cutback, in total supplies.

It is here that the indivisibility of political, economic and strategic factors in an alliance relationship becomes evident, and the need for a fundamental reassessment by both Canada and her allies is apparent. To put it bluntly, NATO is now, and will be for the foreseeable future, dependent on oil supplies from the Middle East for a major part of its energy needs. If this is one of the major constraints on ourselves and our allies, then it should be addressed as a common problem, and whatever political, economic or other solutions we can agree on should be jointly arrived at and acted upon collectively.

There is the recent action of the Soviet Union in invading Afghanistan, which has confirmed beyond a reasonable doubt a major change in Russian policy, many signs of which have been visible for some time, and of which Afghanistan represents both the confirmation of a trend and the latest evidence that we must consider that the old relationship of detente is now dead.

The significance of this should not be underestimated. Most of the policy assumptions of Canada and our allies with regard to the Soviet bloc were based on the idea that, after the end of the cold war, we had developed a more constructive relationship which we learned to call "detente". Even though the two

superpowers were adversaries, it was understood that not only should there be agreements to limit the increase in the numbers and types of strategic nuclear weapons, but there would also be no overt aggression; that is, no direct use of force to invade small and neutral neighbouring states like Afghanistan.

However, with the direct invasion of Afghanistan while offering only the flimsiest pretext, the Russians have gone one distinct step further. For the first time since 1945, the Red army has crossed an international frontier between a communist and a non-communist state. The difference here between their invasions and suppression of the revolutions in both Hungary in 1956 and in Czechoslovakia in 1968 is an important one. In both the last two cases the Soviets could argue that they were acting under some type of real treaty obligation and also that they were acting to preserve the status quo.

Therefore, Afghanistan should lead us all, both in Canada and in the alliance, to reassess our policies for the future. Afghanistan should be assessed by the west, and NATO in particular, as an example of how their vital interests can be threatened indirectly without apparently any collective response being possible. That is because of the location of Afghanistan. I put heavy stress on the word "collective" because given that NATO is a defensive alliance made up of a large number of independent states, unless much thought and effort is devoted to arriving at a collective policy, nothing much can be done unless there is a precedent. The geographic zone which the NATO states have defined as the NATO area excludes a large part of the sea routes which bring oil from the Persian Gulf to Europe.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier): Order, please. I regret to interrupt the hon. gentleman, but his allotted time has expired.

Hon. Monique Bégin (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, please allow me to first pay tribute and express my friendship and solidarity to the "Yvettes" of Canada. Since you are in the chair at the moment, I will ask you to transmit that to Madam Speaker, and, through the "Yvettes", wish her the best of luck in her new functions.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Miss Bégin: Mr. Speaker, I want to say a word that may surprise you, being of the other sex. I want to say a word about the "Yvettes" in this chamber, and the two "Yvette" happenings. Because, whatever the analysis made now by the media and everyone, the plain truth about these two meetings is that ordinary women, people of every day, the so-called silent majority, got fed up with being humiliated and decided to speak up. It is to those ordinary people, the vast majority of Canadians, that I would like to speak today.

Their massive presence in favour of Quebec remaining in Canada has changed the *rapport de forces* in the province of Quebec. Women will have played a key role in the vote on the future of our country. In Quebec City, on March 30, there were 1,700 women from the area who shared a brunch to celebrate their No to separation. Sitting next to me was a woman baker in the family business in Lower Town, and next