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system is what international relations in the 1980s demands. The events in the Middle East and the events in the Caribbean these days underline this firmly.

That machinery might, for example, include an international peace force individually recruited under the authority of an improved Security Council. Others have suggested an effective system of world courts and arbitration tribunals to strengthen the rule of law in international conduct might begin to give nations some sense and hope and recourse.

Charges are being laid in this House, around the world and in the media that world law has been violated. The Charter of the United Nations has certainly been contravened. On this we can all agree. How can we prevent this from happening again? A resolve to empower multilateral institutions with the clout they require is the key, a system of order, that can operate with the force of law rather than the force of military power.

But looking more closely at the crisis at hand, the invasion of Grenada which we are debating tonight, let us consider a means of reconciliation, acting within the structures that exist today as a part of our interdependent global network. Grenada is a member of the Commonwealth, a long standing institution of regional co-operation. It is a solid existing political mechanism through which we can find long-term solutions to the problems of the region and resist the tendency to respond with knee-jerk measures or band-aid diplomacy.

The Secretary General of the Commonwealth has a great deal to offer in the way of bringing about a peaceful resolution as opposed to a military one. Canada would be wise to seek his counsel and should have been seeking his counsel since the recommendations concerning our overriding concern for stability were tabled in this House one year ago. The result was a response from the Government to the recommendations of the subcommittee which said: "We know all about that." "Facile would be to put it mildly", was the response of the Hon. Member for Labelle (Mr. Dupras) which the committee received to that document. "We have already doing it", said the Government, "Why, we are well ahead of you". If it were well ahead of us, we would have been signalled of what was happening in Grenada. We would have seen initiative from the Government, which at least would have been attempting to respond in advance to the growing tide of tension in the basin and in Central America.

● (2350)

I believe we have an opportunity. The institution of the Commonwealth is widely accepted. It is time for Canada to take a stand in the region as a member of an association of nations and to push forward with proposals. We can press for moderation and for consultation. We can take a position that military means should only be a last resort.

I have travelled, through the region, as have other Members of the House, as a member of the subcommittee. I have met the people and seen with my own eyes the political, economic and social circumstances. I can compare them with my years of life in Africa and in other parts of the world. I have heard testimony, along with all sides of the House, from witnesses

who foreshadowed this intervention and felt it was only a matter of time. They told us that as we travelled.

While in Trinidad, for example, we met with a number of regional officials of government and non-governmental agencies who, as far back as January 1982, feared such moves. Whom did we meet? We met, for example, Dr. Kurleigh King, Secretary-General of Caricom. We met with Father Peter Nicholson, editor of the *Catholic Times* in Trinidad. We met with Brian Dare, aid officer of the Canadian High Commission in Barbados. We met with William Demas, President of the Caribbean Development Bank. We met with Reverend Dr. Roy Neehall, Secretary-General of the Caribbean Conference of Churches. In the testimony of those days we find the following question, "Are there fears of an invasion in Grenada?" Also we find the answer, "Yes, events in Dominica show how easy it is to take over a government. In Grenada there is a national fear of Gairy's talks in the U.S. about invading the island". That was testimony of the officials of the Canadian High Commission. We listened to the Secretary-General of the Caribbean Conference of Churches when he indicated, "I should like you to know that the Caribbean Conference of Churches is happy about the end of the Gairy Government in Grenada. We are, however, upset that the churches in Grenada are on a collision course with Mr. Bishop. We are going to begin very soon a dialogue with Mr. Bishop regarding such questions as political prisoners, freedom of the press and elections".

I am left wondering why the Government has not taken a more active interest in the external threats to its Commonwealth colleagues regardless of where they come from. I am concerned that the Government did not seek to work within the Commonwealth structure to identify them and to avert them. Now we are going through a great smokescreen of charge and countercharge to cover up the negligence and failure to adopt a dynamic and positive foreign policy in relationship to our hemisphere, particularly to the Caribbean.

As I conclude my remarks in the debate this evening, I join in expressing sympathy to those who have lost family and loved ones and the people who find their nation island turned upside down. I join in the expression of hope that we as Canadians will continue to be open and to be responsive to human needs. I hope the House will come to the inevitable realization that the peace and security of our world hangs in the balance and that here we have a symbolic situation of much larger circumstances. We either seek political solutions to our conflicts on the international stage, or we will live in a permanent state of peril. We must come to grips with the principle of common security and join with neighbours and allies in a renewed commitment to the international institutions within which we have an honoured place. Should we not take that course, those who die in the midst of these tragic circumstances do indeed die in vain.

Mr. Jim Manly (Cowichan-Malahat-The Islands): Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to speak on this most tragic and threatening situation regarding the invasion in Grenada. I appreciate the comments that were just made by