

Nuclear Armaments

before. In fact, that debate was won in Canada. Both former Prime Minister Diefenbaker and former Prime Minister Trudeau talked about Canada as nuclear free, not taking nuclear weapons, and no transit of nuclear weapons through Canadian territory, which is difficult when we have American warships with nuclear weapons in our waters. They referred to there being no production in Canada of components for nuclear weapons systems. That means that we have to be very careful about the uranium we produce, that it goes for peaceful purposes, not to be put into American nuclear reactors. Those are some of the requirements for a nuclear free zone in Canada. I will let other Members speak about what that would mean.

I would like to conclude by mentioning two special areas. I think the Canadian Government should be really pushing a nuclear free zone in the Arctic among the Nordic countries. I believe that is an area we should be working on. It is an area that is open. The Soviets have talked about it. Our Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Clark) rejected that notion very quickly. I do not think that is the way to go. We should have further talks about it. If you look at the Arctic from the top of a world globe, it looks much different from on a flat map. You can see the Soviet Union, Alaska, with the Americans and the Nordic countries and you can see just who our northern neighbours are. It is quite impressive, looking at a map of the northern zone.

I think we should be looking in that area in terms of some proposals from Canada to the Soviets, the Americans and the Nordic countries of a nuclear free zone in the Arctic. That is in Canada's national interest. We have a lot to gain if we did that. It would dramatically reduce tensions and defence costs. We would not need to send nuclear subs up there. If we had a nuclear free Arctic, there would not be any subs there. It may be a difficult treaty to negotiate, but at least we should be taking the first steps towards the negotiations.

There is a second area I would like to mention, and I note the Hon. Member for Vancouver East (Ms. Mitchell) is in the House as well as the Hon. Member for Cowichan—Malahat—The Islands (Mr. Manly). We have a particular interest in this area because we are from the Pacific Coast, right on the water—my riding is not on the water but the other ridings are. We look out to the Pacific. There have been very interesting things going on in New Zealand, and there have been suggestions for a nuclear free Pacific zone. If we could get that, just think of all the problems that we might avoid, Mr. Speaker. As countries become independent and more outgoing in the Pacific, we do not want them to be brought into the cold war. I think New Zealand is to be complimented. I notice the voters of New Zealand re-elected the Government that had the courage to stand up to the Americans.

Yesterday the New Zealand Government protested the fact that our friend, France, and I hate to say it, has been bad, if I can put it that way—

Ms. Mitchell: Evil.

Mr. Waddell: I would not say evil, but I would say France has been very disappointing and has caused great concern because it continues to conduct nuclear tests in the South Pacific. Yesterday it set off a 50 kiloton underground nuclear test. France should stop playing imperialist games in the Pacific. It should get out of there and give independence to its colonies. It should get out of nuclear testing. There should be world pressure on France to make the Pacific nuclear free. These tests are giving problems not only to the inhabitants in the South Pacific but to everyone in the world.

Let me conclude by saying that this Bill with respect to a nuclear free zone is an excellent one. I have spoken about how it can be applied. Looking to the future, let us look at the Arctic and the South Pacific. However, let us first get our own backyard in order and let us have a nuclear free zone in Canada.

● (1710)

Mrs. Jennifer Cossitt (Leeds—Grenville): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to have an opportunity to add my voice to those of my colleagues who have already spoken to the motion before us by the Hon. Member for Beaches (Mr. Young) who is a very well respected Member of the House.

Members on both sides of the House are all well aware that Canada does not possess nuclear weapons or have any plan to do so. Furthermore, the deployment, testing or construction of such weapons within Canada, or their transportation through Canada, could not occur without the express consent of the Canadian Government. Canada's situation in this regard is very different from that of a number of NATO countries which accept the stationing of nuclear weapons on their territory. As for Canadian exports, it is Canadian policy that all exports of nuclear material, equipment and technology shall be strictly for peaceful, non-explosive purposes. This policy is implemented through bilateral agreements and with the co-operation of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Canada is a strong supporter of the nuclear non-proliferation regime and endorses in principle the establishment of nuclear weapons free zones where they can make an effective contribution in this regard. Until such time as the non-proliferation treaty gains close to universal adherence, the establishment of such zones can make a contribution to the objective of preventing the proliferation of nuclear weapons.

However, to be effective, a nuclear weapons free zone must, in our judgment, fully meet the following criteria: apply to a well-defined region; have the support of the countries of the region; and, most important, promote regional and international stability. Canada's central concern is to ensure that in current and foreseeable circumstances our policies contribute both to national security and international stability.

Collective defence and arms control and disarmament constitute fundamental elements of Canada's national security policy. This Government's commitment to collective defence is exemplified in Canada's membership in NATO and NORAD.