

*North-South Relations*

The two states that sold nuclear technology to Iraq, France and Italy, are participating members of the summit in Ottawa next month. That summit will bring together the leading exporters of nuclear technology. Could there be any more appropriate subject for discussion at the summit than the problem of nuclear proliferation? We must assume collective responsibility for this problem. If we cannot use summit meetings to stress the urgency of a response to this potential disaster, then it is hard to know what the utility of these meetings can be.

There is a stark choice before us, and it is this: Are commercial interests and competition to win the day, or will we co-operate in an effort to control nuclear proliferation? Indeed, we shall watch with a sense of concern and urgency to see if the summiteers confront this situation.

In discussing international conflict I have not so far raised the question of human rights. But the plight of political refugees in Central America and elsewhere in the world raises this next area of concern about our foreign policy.

*[Translation]*

Less than two years ago, we had to face the massive arrival of Indo-Chinese refugees. They became an enormous challenge for Canada which had to live up to its international reputation of a country sympathetic to the refugee problems. I am pleased to say that all levels of government acted with generosity and openness. However, it should be acknowledged that such events put our resources and organizations to the test. Consequently, we should entirely review our policy on human rights as well as our capacity to respond to emergencies involving refugees.

*[English]*

For example, at the national level we should now be considering ways to monitor more closely situations of instability and of human rights violations, having in mind, among other things, their potential for generating massive refugee movements. We should also consider whether our resettlement plans are sufficiently flexible to allow the forward planning necessary to deal with the nature and scope of the problems likely to arise. And as we consider our capability in this regard, we should also be examining the co-operation of governmental and private groups, for it is clear from the experience that we have had, that the support of private groups is essential to the successful relocation of refugees. Those are things we can do at the national level.

At the international level we should recognize that the United Nations covenant on human rights, drawn up in 1951, is now quite inadequate. Indeed, the very definition of a refugee is no longer pertinent when it does not apply to the displaced Thais or fear-ridden Cambodians who are internal refugees in their own countries. As I argued in my speech to the 34th session of the General Assembly, the United Nations must find better, more certain ways to deal with gross violations of human rights, no matter where they happen.

We must be able to take effective action immediately, not years after the abuses occur. And to achieve this, it must be

recognized that wholesale abuses are not now the unfortunate byproduct of a war situation, but, with disturbing frequency, are used as a deliberate instrument of government policy, as in Kampuchea, Viet Nam and Uganda.

A corollary need, Mr. Speaker, is to establish both national and international agencies to monitor the distressingly large number of disappearances of individuals in the world. A knowledge of these disappearances is the essential prerequisite if the governments responsible are to be held accountable. Only a major collaborative effort will permit pressure to be brought to bear to prevent these large-scale assassinations.

Moreover, as we examine the role of human rights in our foreign policy, it will again be necessary for us to understand that our policy may not be compatible with that of the United States. Surely no one can have missed the thrust of President Reagan's policy on human rights. As we have seen in the last few days, there was an attempt to obtain Senate approval for the appointment of Ernest Lafever as assistant state secretary for human rights, a man who is on record as favouring a two-side approach to human rights. His idea is to criticize and condemn publicly all Soviet left-wing violations of human rights, but to use quiet diplomacy with those right-wing governments which are guilty of violations.

We must reinforce and let it be known that a cornerstone of Canadian foreign policy, declared and open, is that human rights are human rights. Let us monitor the violations and raise our voice in protest against them with scrupulous fairness and with total indifference to the political nature of the government which practices the violations.

The resolution before us today also asks us to endorse the broad thrust of the North-South task force. I do not intend to dwell at length on this important question, for my colleague, the hon. member for Edmonton South (Mr. Roche, who was a member of the task force, and, indeed, its co-chairman, will take it up at greater length later in the debate. But in light of the comments that I have made on the need for clear initiatives in foreign policy, I think it is important to note that what we need is not simply agreement with the broad thrust of the task force report, but commitment to those recommendations the government has accepted and which will be elaborated upon later in this debate.

● (1620)

We all understand the severe difficulties that are involved in any partial restructuring of our national economy and of the international economy to meet the needs of Third World countries. But it is also clear that in the decade to come we have an absolute obligation to make this effort.

For the very poorest countries, who are becoming progressively poorer, we need to make greater efforts to provide them with minimal economic security and with the capital transfers that are a prerequisite to their economic development.

To those Third World countries who are successfully developing, the newly industrialized countries, we in the North need to show imagination and courage in finding the trade relationships which will be to our mutual advantage. For this