

Private Members' Business

Paper of 1987 which is really a cold war type document not in tune at all with the reality of today.

In conclusion let me say that never was the time better to push ahead with treaties and procedures to eliminate and control nuclear weapons. The door is open today for agreement in many areas with respect to the destruction and control of nuclear weapons and it may not be open for too long.

I plead with the government to support this motion. I have heard the Secretary of State for External Affairs speak on this on several occasions. He says he supports a comprehensive test ban treaty but he has doubt about the method by which we are proceeding under the amendment procedures in the nonproliferation treaty.

Those of us in politics know that if you want to accomplish something, use any method available to you because if you do not, time will pass you by. Here is an opportunity this year to bring about a comprehensive test ban treaty. The Soviet Union has already said that it favours proceeding under this conference and concluding a comprehensive test ban treaty to transform the partial test ban treaty into a comprehensive test ban treaty.

To many Canadians and many peace activists the conclusion of the INF treaty gave the impression that everything was going very well and they did not have to do very much anymore to press ahead with the abolition of nuclear weapons. That is not the case. I pointed out that we have only dealt with 1,100 out of 60,000 nuclear weapons. Here is an opportunity this year to have a comprehensive test ban treaty.

• (1420)

I hope that the entire House will support this motion and that the Canadian government will go to that conference and support the comprehensive test ban treaty.

Mr. Bill Casey (Cumberland—Colchester): Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the hon. member opposite for raising this issue of the greatest importance, that of nuclear disarmament.

For over 40 years the world has been faced with the potential of nuclear war, a horror which Canada has worked tirelessly to eliminate. Yet this threat remains with us still. In fact, despite the point of the member

opposite that the cold war is over, I noted yesterday in *The Ottawa Citizen* that only one in four Canadians believe that the cold war is over.

Despite the very real improvement in east-west relations which we have witnessed over the past few years, we must not fail to recognize the continued danger, just as we must not lag in our efforts to combat it. We must continue to strive in every way possible for a free world or a world free of nuclear weapons or a world free from which the nuclear threat of holocaust has been banished forever.

As the hon. member has pointed out, and he has my full support in this regard, the realization of a comprehensive test ban treaty would constitute a major step toward realizing this goal. A comprehensive and effective ban on all nuclear testing, including the so-called peaceful nuclear explosions in all environments and for all time, would complete the work undertaken by negotiators in drafting the threshold test ban treaty in the peaceful nuclear explosions treaty. It would effectively initiate a process of suffocation of nuclear weapons both as concerns their readiness and their development.

This is a goal of great importance to this government. In fact, in 1985 the Prime Minister listed the negotiation of the comprehensive test ban treaty, or the CTVT, as a key goal in a list of six primary arms' control and disarmament objectives.

Today, the realization of such a treaty remains a fundamental Canadian foreign policy objective.

Canada has been a supporter of the comprehensive test ban treaty ever since the concept was introduced in the 1950s, both in encouraging negotiations among the parties directly concerned and in supporting a pragmatic step-by-step approach at the multilateral level.

Canadian support for the comprehensive test ban treaty has taken a number of practical forms. Canada plays a leading role in the work of the conference on disarmament in Geneva in the development of a global seismic monitoring system which will be required to verify an eventual comprehensive test ban treaty.

Canada continues to play an active role in the United Nations General Assembly in seeking to secure broad, political support for the comprehensive test ban treaty and in support of efforts to establish an *ad hoc* committee on nuclear testing in the CD.