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about the cause of terrorism rather than simply treating the symptoms, as President Reagan did last night.

The cause of terrorism in the Middle East is the 40-year struggle of the Palestinians to regain a homeland. Bombing Tripoli will not eliminate that terrorism, but will exacerbate the problem. It will intensify the hatred, bitterness, and disillusionment. Young Palestinians would not be engaged in acts of terrorism if they were working in pharmacies, teaching school, acting in local politics, farming their lands, or had a flag flying over their homeland.

I am not suggesting for a moment, Mr. Speaker, that we embark upon the dismemberment of the state of Israel. There is room in the Middle East for both of those peoples to live in peace. It will not come overnight, but neither will it come as long as the President Reagans of the world continue to send pre-emptive military strikes against Tripoli, Damascus, Beirut, or wherever it happens to be. Peace will come about in the Middle East and there will be a diminution of terrorism if the major powers; the United States, the U.S.S.R., western Europe, and Canada, recognize the true cause of the terrorism, the disease which has caused this cancer that has killed so many innocent people on both sides in the Middle East and in Europe, and perhaps, as a result of last night's actions, in North America as well.

I call upon my colleagues to consider the real issue. Certainly part of the real issue of paramount importance is to bring terrorism to an end, to protect the lives of future innocent people, and to pay homage and respect to the innocents who have already died as a result of that conflict, that cancer, in the Middle East. We are not going to solve the problem, cure the disease, or actually perform a true political surgical operation, unless we recognize the cause. I sincerely hope that other nations will make an effort to bring the Palestinians and the Israelis together in order that they can solve and settle their problems so that they do not continue to spill over throughout the entire Middle East, Europe, and perhaps even North America.

There is a major problem, Mr. Speaker. That problem is simply that one of the two superpowers, the United States, has consistently chosen to give almost its total support to the one side. In doing so, it has lost almost the entire support of the other side. I do not know whether that damage is irreparable. I do not think it is. Muslims are anti-communists by nature. I see very little future for the Soviet Union anywhere in the Arab world if we begin to change our attitude toward the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. However, as long as the U.S. supports only one side, as it has consistently done, you can expect the others to look elsewhere for support. That, too, must be addressed.

● (2200)

I hope, in the spirit of Pearsonian diplomacy to which I made reference a moment ago, that Canada will return to the role of peace-maker and not say: "Yes, go ahead, bomb them", or: "We agree", or ring our hands and say there is nothing we

can do. I congratulate the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Clark) for what he said in the Middle East a couple of days ago with respect to the Palestinian problem. I continue to hope that both he and our Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney), the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence (Mr. Nielsen), and the Government Party, will bring pressure to bear on our American neighbours and friends to try to take a more balanced view of the Middle East, to try to bring peace to that troubled part of the world. In doing so I am convinced that there would be a very perceptible diminution of state sponsored terrorism and violence in that part of the world. Unless we are prepared to take the tough, moral road, that will not come about. If we simply continue, as the U.S. did last night, to exert violence against violence, the Middle East will continue to be the world's northern Ireland and we will all suffer the sadness that will come from that.

Hon. Warren Allmand (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce—Lachine East): Mr. Speaker, like other Members of Parliament who have spoken in this debate I want to start by saying that we in Government, we in Parliament, must do everything possible and reasonable to combat and destroy terrorism. Surreptitious terrorism is the instrument of demented cowards. It is not acceptable that ordinary citizens from any part of the world, including the United States, the Soviet Union and the Arab world, should be unable to travel freely by air, to visit places of entertainment, or to go to public places at all, without fear of terrorist attack. That is not acceptable in 1986. As I said, we in Government, we in Parliament, must apply our intelligence and political will to provide creative solutions to this most important problem. It must be a priority. It must be a commitment. I do not believe that has been the case up until now.

While I say that we must combat terrorism with all our intelligence and might, I am not convinced at this point that the U.S. military action last night was the appropriate response at this time. I may very well be convinced with the proper evidence and information, with the intelligence which has been provided to certain groups around the world. However, I stand here with doubt in my mind. Certainly there was no justification for the bombing of civilian targets.

This makes me wonder about the alleged technology of our military equipment. We hear how we are so advanced that we can strike a target 3,000 miles away with a nuclear missile; we have aircraft that can go beyond the speed of sound; we can do all sorts of marvellous things. Yet here we have American aircraft attacking what the President said were military and terrorist targets and by mistake they hit civilians. That makes us wonder. If that is being done in a limited operation like that, what could happen with respect to our nuclear arsenals?

As I say, I have these doubts in my mind with respect to the attack which took place last night and much depends upon the intelligence and information which should be provided to us by the Government. I was sincerely disappointed in the speech of the Deputy Prime Minister tonight. As a matter of fact, it is my submission that he gave us a different version than was