

Statements by Ministers

But it seems to me that one of the things that Canada could have done in its new role as a member of the Organization of American States was put off this situation by becoming more actively involved in trying to reach a settlement. But I do not expect the minister to work miracles overnight in the Organization of American States. We thought it was an organization in which we are not even sure ordinary things can be worked, never mind miracles. That is why we were skeptical about Canada joining. I think that many of the members of the Organization of American States may be more skeptical about Canadian membership after this when they see the uncritical attitude taken by the minister.

It may also be the case that they will be muted in their criticism of the United States because of a sense that they failed to solve the situation. I would not be surprised if publicly they were muted in their criticism of the United States, whether this would come out of a sense of their not having dealt with the situation properly or out of a sense of what we have always said about the Organization of American States, that in the end it was an organization dominated by the Americans. This is a judgment one will have to reserve as we hear more from the leadership of the OAS and as we learn more about the situation.

I regretted the view that was taken earlier in the day by the minister and by some of his colleagues, many for that matter on the other side, who tried to caricature the debate as us being somehow pro-Noriega. Nobody in his right mind thinks that this is the case. What we are debating is whether the end in this case justifies the means, whether the means has significance far beyond Panama and far beyond Central America, whether or not it might for instance damage the process of the improvement in east-west relations. I hope it does not. I hope

that the Soviets will have a bigger picture of what is going on and that they will not let this get in the way of the steps that they are taking.

I hope that the Americans will show a similar attitude toward their geographical back yard, so to speak, that the Soviets have taken toward theirs, and relinquish the view that in the final analysis, everything that happens there is something that is their business in a way that entitles them to intervene. That is really what is at stake.

Finally, what is at stake is the need for the world to develop a way to get beyond the United Nations Charter, as it now stands, so that the internal affairs of corrupt and undemocratic regimes is something that is within the reach of the international community. We need to get beyond the notions of national sovereignty that protect nations which violate the human rights of its citizens, and the way to do that is not to approve and justify the licence of superpowers. The way to do that is to work a real reform of the United Nations.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): It being seven o'clock p.m., pursuant to order made earlier this day, this House stands adjourned until Monday, January 22, 1990, at one o'clock p.m., providing the Speaker may recall the House at any time before the date for the sole purpose of Royal Assent.

[*Translation*]

A Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year—

[*English*]

May you all have a happy and a prosperous New Year. God bless.

The House adjourned at 6.59 p.m.