

*Military Equipment Export Restrictions*

In the policy announcement made on September 10, 1986, the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Clark) stated that Canada was closely monitoring the export of military goods and technologies to the following countries: First, countries that are a threat to Canada and its allies; second, nations involved in or under imminent threat of hostilities; third, countries against which sanction have been taken by the Security Council of the United Nations; fourth, countries with persistent records of serious violations of the human rights of their citizens, unless it can be showed there is no reasonable risk of the goods being used against the civil population.

Mr. Speaker, those guidelines are restrictive, as it was in the past. But they are now clearer, they express our respect for our international commitments and international law, and they have the general support of Canadians across the land. Especially, I would like to call your attention to the statement made by the Secretary of State for External Affairs concerning the sale of military equipment to countries with persistent records of serious violations of the human rights of their citizens. This amended, clarified and reinforced guidelines developed during the policy review reflects the Government's strong commitment to the promotion of human rights throughout the world.

For reasons of national and collective defence, Canada is co-operating with its allies to prevent the exports of military and strategic goods and technologies to nations which represent a threat for the security of our country and that of our allies. This policy stems from Canada's participation in an organization of 16 countries known as the Co-ordinating Committee for Strategic Trade Controls, also known as the COCOM. This informal organization is made up of NATO countries, except Iceland and Japan. It meets regularly in Paris to review all planned sales of military and strategic goods and technologies which have a military significance and which might go to nations which are considered as a threat to the Western Countries' Alliance. The countries excluded by COCOM include the USSR, the other members of the Warsaw Pact, and the People's Republic of China. The COCOM supervises goods and technologies classified in 120 groups and has established three international lists of embargo-imposed goods: The list of industrial goods, that of ammunitions and that of atomic energy products. These three lists are the subject of negotiations between member countries. Once adopted, they reflect the COCOM's consensus on what military goods and technologies, atomic energy goods and strategic goods are. They are the basis for controls applied by each member country, in line with its own legislation.

• (1730)

[English]

In conclusion, the Government has laws and regulations in place to further its policy objectives. These policy objectives attempt to balance Canada's national security concerns, its economic development objectives, and the legitimate views of Canadians that Canada should not become involved in foreign

conflicts and should not contribute to human rights offences in other countries.

**Mr. Jim Manly (Cowichan—Malahat—The Islands):** Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to speak in the debate. I should like to say a word of appreciation to the Hon. Member for Kamloops—Shuswap (Mr. Riis), not only for putting his motion on the Order Paper and raising it for debate today, but also for having raised the issue numerous times in the past.

The issue of arms exports from Canada must be seen in the total world context. We are spending close to \$1 trillion per year on arms. At the same time, millions of people, our brothers and sisters in other parts of the world, are going hungry, naked, and homeless. There is a tremendous imbalance in the way in which the world is spending its money.

Ruth Léger-Savard, in her book entitled *World Military and Social Expenditures for 1985* illustrated some gross inconsistencies. She pointed out that in 1983 we spent on a world basis some \$25,600 on military expenditures for every soldier throughout the world. For every school child in the world, we spent \$450. We spent \$45 per capita for military research. We spent \$11 per capita for health research. We spent \$152 per capita for military forces, and 6 cents per capita for international peacekeeping.

Today we are talking about a global problem which threatens the very survival of our world. As we look at the escalating arms race, it concerns us vitally as Canadians. In addition, it has a vital impact upon the lives of people, particularly those in the Third World who have been targeted by Canadian arms manufacturers as being perhaps the most lucrative market to develop and exploit.

The motion asks that the Government refer this very important matter to the Standing Committee on External Affairs and International Trade. I am sure that is something all Hon. Members would want. Let us have a committee of the House examine this very important issue.

I am very pleased that our regular member on that committee, the Hon. Member for New Westminster—Coquitlam (Ms. Jewett), has repeatedly tried to get the committee to examine the whole question of arms exports.

The Hon. Member for Saint-Henri—Westmount (Mr. Johnston) said that he wanted to go further than did the motion. Of course we want to go further, but the motion is a starting place. I regret that when that member was a member of the previous Government he did not take action which would have resulted in some amelioration of the problem. In fact, during the time that that member's Party was in government, there were numerous instances when issues such as this one were brought to its attention and nothing was done about them.

In 1983, it was brought to the attention of the Government that helicopter parts were being exported to the United States and that the end use of those helicopter parts was in El Salvador to strafe the civilian population. The Government did