

Accordingly, I accept the decision that was made by the Speaker of the House of Commons in 1984 and rule that, for similar reasons, Bill S-11 is out of order. The order for the second reading of this bill should be discharged and the bill struck from the Order Paper.

In conclusion, I might add that there are other means available to Senator Cools to respond to public opinion brought to the senator's attention, and she may wish to consider them.

## ORDERS OF THE DAY

### INTER-PARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE

NINETY-FOURTH CONFERENCE HELD IN BUCHAREST, ROMANIA

**Hon. Peter Bosa** rose pursuant to notice of Wednesday, November 8, 1995:

That he will draw the attention of the Senate to the 94th Inter-Parliamentary Conference, held in Bucharest, Romania, from October 7 to 14, 1995.

He said: Honourable senators, it is my privilege to present the report of the Ninety-fourth Inter-Parliamentary Conference held in Bucharest from October 7 to 14. I attended this conference in company with my distinguished colleagues Senators Bacon and Comeau, and with three other members of the House of Commons: Ms Sue Barnes, Ms Brenda Chamberlain and Mr. Derrick Wells.

Before speaking about the deliberations at the conference, I should like to mention a few points about our host country. Since 1989, Romania has made considerable progress in moving toward a more democratic and market-oriented system. The current government coalition of Prime Minister Nicolae Vacaroiu has been hampered by several votes of non-confidence which have delayed the passing of additional political and economic reforms. Much needed privatization is proceeding, though at a slow pace.

Canadian parliamentarians observed the elections in May of 1990 and in September of 1992. Bilateral trade and political consultations were held in November and December of 1992, and in May of 1994 a memorandum on economic cooperation between Canada and Romania was signed.

Romania is Canada's third largest trading partner in Eastern Europe, after Russia and Poland. In 1993, Canada-Romania two-way trade reached \$85 million, and increased by 50 per cent in 1994. Since 1989, Canadian companies have invested over \$60 million and set up over 400 joint ventures with Romania.

The Canadian Technical Assistance Program for Romania began in 1991. Since then, over \$11 million has been disbursed or committed to some 50 projects. The program has budgeted expenditures of \$3 million to \$3.5 million for fiscal year 1994-95. Notable successes of the program include: the first full MBA course delivered in Eastern Europe, the first loan guarantee fund for small businesses established in Eastern Europe, and the first stock market entirely established by Canada.

The Cernavoda nuclear plant is Canada's largest capital project in the region. Since 1978, the plant has generated nearly \$500-million worth of Canadian exports to Romania. Last year, AECL and the Romanian utility, RENEL, signed a five-year lease for heavy water.

Our visit to Romania enabled us to learn more about the transition process, and to see at first hand developments in Eastern Europe. October 1985 was a busy month for our Romanian hosts, since the week following our conference the Speaker of the Senate, the Honourable Gildas Molgat, participated in an official visit.

I turn now to the conference itself. At the outset, I should like to express our thanks and appreciation to the officials from Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada, the Canadian International Development Agency, the Department of Justice and the Office of the Ethics Counsellor who briefed our delegation prior to our departure, as well as to the researchers in the Library of Parliament who provided background papers.

I would also pay tribute to the Canadian Ambassador, Mr. Gilles Duguay, and his colleagues for their assistance and support during the conference. At the beginning of our work, Mr. Duguay and other staff members provided a comprehensive and informative briefing on Romania. Our ambassador also hosted a reception during the conference at which we met some Romanian business people who were interested in Canada. Throughout the conference, Mr. Donald Banks, a counsellor, assisted the delegation. We want to express our thanks and appreciation for their hard work.

Before speaking about the topics on the agenda of the conference, I want to refer briefly to the work of the women parliamentarians at these inter-parliamentary conferences. During the 1985 IPU conference in Ottawa, a decision was made that the women delegates would meet prior to the opening session to discuss matters of mutual interest, as well as ways of increasing the participation of women parliamentarians within the union and its various activities.

As part of its ongoing work to correct the imbalances in the participation of men and women in political life, last year the union decided to review the IPU's statutes and rules to ensure that the vocabulary used could in no way be construed as suggesting the superiority of one sex over the other. This task was undertaken by a small working group composed of representatives from one country whose language is English, one country whose language is French, and two bilingual countries.