

Adjournment Debate

Australia. These people have been crushed under the boots of an oppressive dictatorship in Indonesia. I asked the Minister politely without innuendo or sarcasm of any kind the following question:

Mr. Speaker, the Secretary of State for External Affairs knows that Canada has allotted \$300 million in aid through CIDA to Indonesia over a five-year period. In fact, that represents the fourth largest Canadian aid program in all of Asia. How can the Government continue to ignore the fact that Indonesia has invaded East Timor with 40,000 troops and is conducting "Operation Extinction", which is tantamount to genocide? What kind of representations will the Secretary of State for External Affairs make to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Indonesia, Dr. Mochtar, who is in Ottawa at the present time?

The Minister's reply included the following remarks:

It would be a change in the basis of his representations in the House, if they were based on fact.

He went on to say:

I would invite the Hon. Member, rather than relying upon the editorial opinion of *The Globe and Mail*, to learn the facts for himself and to avoid making accusations which he cannot support with facts.

Instead of treating this question with sympathy, the Secretary of State for External Affairs had to resort to personal attacks on the questioner. This is a sad regression and a breach of the promise the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) made for a new era of civility. In any case, insults will not change the suffering of those people nor will it stop my determination to bring their tragedy to the attention of the House and the Canadian people.

In the House of Commons, I asked the Secretary of State for External Affairs to make representations to the Indonesian Foreign Minister, Dr. Mochtar. The Minister replied that these arguments are exaggerated. I asked him to make representations on behalf of the indigenous people at the Human Rights Commission meeting in Geneva and he told me that unless I went to see for myself, I should not make accusations I could not support with facts. This is an incredible reply in view of the record of Indonesia and the reports which are a shocking indictment of human rights violations in East Timor as well as the fact that over 10,000 pathetic refugees from Irian Jaya have poured across the border into United Nations camps in Papua New Guinea.

Although the Red Cross is the only organization allowed into East Timor and is not even allowed into Irian Jaya, it is effectively muzzled because, as a humanitarian organization, it is not allowed to discuss anything except how many prisoners it could visit and the state of their care and rehabilitation. There are no other groups that the Indonesians will allow to enter East Timor or Irian Jaya.

When I was recently at the United Nations Human Rights Commission in Geneva, I was told about the refugees by the United Nations High Commission on Refugees. I was told about the atrocities by Amnesty International, Pax Christi, Pax Romana, the Canada-Asia working group of churches, the Australian Council for Overseas Aid, the International Christian Consultation on East Timor and of reports that were smuggled out to the members of the Pacific Conference of

Churches that met at Samoa. I spoke to delegates from France and Portugal who appealed to Indonesia to end its atrocities and who appealed as well to the International Red Cross and others in Geneva whose names I cannot mention because of their links to people within East Timor. However, they are extremely credible.

I also spoke to Indonesian delegates. They confirmed that they will not allow human rights organizations or churches into Irian Jaya or into East Timor because they only "come to make trouble and lie about us". They also refused to explain why over the years they have never replied to accusations made by the United Nations Human Rights Commission.

Whom should we believe? Should we believe the reports of these human rights organizations based on information from refugees and smuggled messages, reports that are reliable, or should we accept the reassurances of the Minister who bases his information on the reports of the Canadian Ambassador to Indonesia who, given the opportunity to see East Timor, said: "Things aren't as bad as they were and have been exaggerated"?

I would hope that this time I will receive a decent, concerned and respectful answer to this question which deals with human suffering. It deserves no less from the Government of Canada, a nation with a great record of concern for human rights when they are brought to our attention.

• (1820)

[Translation]

Mr. Jean-Guy Hudon (Parliamentary Secretary to Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased today to reply to my colleague concerning the question of East Timor, a question which of course is at the origin of impassioned reactions. I wonder how Opposition Members invariably manage to question the sources of information on certain anomalies or problems which exist in the world.

Mr. Speaker, rumours about many losses of life in Timor are founded. They are indeed true. When people are in that state, Mr. Speaker, when there is a civil war, it is not the only reason, it is not simply indiscriminate killing of the population, but it is, and this was confirmed by the International Red Cross Committee in 1979—which by the way saved 70,000 people—famine, lack of shelter, disease, malnutrition which are causing the largest number of deaths.

Naturally, Mr. Speaker, during a civil war you can count all the casualties and say that they result strictly from that war. You can count that way, but that is not what I call violation of human rights. According to our reports, there are no such violations of human rights at the present time.

Mr. Speaker, the news we get and the information my colleague received, are, according to our own information, exaggerated. Following the visit of the Minister of Foreign Affairs from Indonesia there were reports in the *Sunday Star* and in *The Ottawa Citizen* which were far more balanced than the accusations first made.