

*Adjournment Debate*

I do not intend to speak about Chile; the subject has nothing to do with the question which was addressed to the minister the other day.

The hon. member spoke of Cambodia, and with a good deal of self-assurance he told us that everybody knew about Cambodia executing people on a massive scale—all the diplomats had confirmed it, Peking knew about it, all the journalists knew about it, as well as everybody else. But how did they know? The country has withdrawn into a state of isolation and has virtually cut off contact with the outside world. Canada recognized the present regime in April, 1975, but we have no official diplomatic accreditation to Cambodia. In these circumstances all we could do was to ask our embassy in Bangkok, Thailand, our diplomatic mission closest to Cambodia, to report on the situation there to the extent it is possible for them to do so.

● (2230)

If the case of alleged violations of basic human rights in Cambodia is true, we would have another problem in regard to taking unilateral action vis-à-vis the government of Cambodia. As with any other government, we would be

expected to observe the principle of non-intervention in the internal affairs of another state.

There is one more avenue, albeit somewhat longer term, where we can act.

[*Translation*]

The hon. member accuses us of not being able to do anything, of being paralyzed because we did not ratify the United Nations covenant of human rights. This does not prevent us from following now the procedures of the United Nations through the agencies that are concerned with such questions.

When individuals, groups or non-government organizations that have direct knowledge of violations submit documents, they are analyzed by the United Nations sub-commission on Human Rights of which we are a member. Our Canadian representative is prepared to consider seriously any report on Cambodia which is communicated by this sub-commission.

To conclude I have a question to put to the hon. member: Why Cambodia and not all the other areas in the communist world or in the Third World where there are violations of the most fundamental human rights?

Motion agreed to and the House adjourned at 10.36 p.m.