

*Government Orders*

In the inter-war years we were not nearly as active in Europe, perhaps not as active as we should have been, and I think Europe suffered for it as a result. When I say that we were not that active or as active as we should have been, neither was the United States. We have learned a lot since then, that we do have a place in Europe and European security and that we are wanted in Europe in terms of maintaining stability and helping Europeans in their inter-European affairs.

During World War II we made another very substantial contribution in that dreadful war, and through NATO for the past 40 years we have had an active role as well.

In all these interventions or in all these relationships Canada has acted with considerable distinction, a lot of courage, and a great deal of imagination. In fact it was Lester Pearson who insisted on the so-called Canada clause of NATO, in which he argued that NATO should be much more than just a military alliance, and of course my party and I very much agree. It should also be a social, economic and cultural relationship.

Having said that, we are now confronted with a happy problem in terms of what should be our role now in the CSCE. We have been active in it since its beginnings back in the 1970s. I am happy to see that we intend to remain a part of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe.

There are many reasons I would argue that this is of fundamental importance to Canada. Not only will it continue the tradition of Canada's close ties with Europe, but it will allow us to make a meaningful contribution to a continent that really is very much in upheaval at this time.

We have very happily accepted the events in eastern Europe in the past year or year and a half. We have seen eastern Europe transform itself with virtually no bloodshed, except for Romania, from Marxist totalitarianism toward a more liberal, democratic society. We have seen it first in Poland, then of course more recently in Czechoslovakia and Hungary, and in the unification of east Germany and west Germany.

This process has brought great happiness to Canadians, to Americans, and to Europeans. It has also brought many problems, primarily of an economic nature but also of an ethnic nature.

There is a lot of unrest in countries like Yugoslavia, Romania, even parts of Czechoslovakia, and certainly in the Soviet Union. Of course the Soviet Union is a special case in itself. We welcome the changes that *glasnost* has brought to the Soviet Union: the more open society, the more liberal society, and the more tolerant society. Certainly the citizens of the Soviet Union are happy with that turn of events.

• (1220 )

Quite frankly—and I was there very briefly this past summer for about 10 days—the people in the Soviet Union are extremely unhappy. They are extremely upset. The mood is very volatile. They see all around them the great poverty and great deprivation that are accompanying *glasnost*. In other words *perestroika*, the other part of the equation, is simply not working and that country is on the brink of social upheaval day by day.

For example, the very people whom I hope *perestroika* will benefit in the long run, ordinary working Soviet men and women, are those who are most opposed to *perestroika* because to date *perestroika* has brought nothing but deprivation and hardship. The food stores are empty. There is little or no fuel available in many of the great cities of the Soviet Union.

It is not for us to condemn the Soviet Union or to condemn Mr. Gorbachev for what has happened. One cannot go from darkness into light overnight. One cannot go from an authoritarian, highly centralized economy to a free society or a free economy overnight, without these attendant, deeply rooted problems.

The point I am getting at—and this relates to the CSCE—is that I am very fearful that before the Soviet Union can fully adjust itself to a market economy and a liberal, democratic, political regime, the country itself will come apart, as it is doing now.

The old Soviet empire is in a shambles. The old Soviet empire, effectively speaking, no longer exists except for the military and except for what is left of the centralized government in Moscow. However, the Russian Federated Republic, the Ukraine, the Baltic States, and the southern Asiatic republics by and large are bent on one course. One can understand why and sympathize with them. They want independence.