

moving to a new world order based more on mutual trust. We can together explore these new areas. The Canadian Government should be in the forefront of that process rather than a drag, and it has become a drag.

It is with great pleasure that I stand in my place today to offer this motion. I am certain it is a motion on which many Members will want to speak and that we will have a most informed and interesting debate.

• (1040)

[*Translation*]

Mr. Tremblay (Lotbinière): Mr. Speaker, it is a real pleasure to discuss this matter, even briefly. I must congratulate the Hon. Member from the New Democratic Party for his brilliant contribution. I will simply tell him that I agree in principle with this kind of proposal insofar that everything must be done to ensure that our planet no longer has a hot spot as far as war is concerned.

It is clear to me as Member of the Standing Committee on Human Rights, Mr. Speaker, and I am sure everyone else shares this view, that we must make every effort, do everything in our power to preserve peace. Personally, looking at the Government policy that has been very well established by the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Clark), I find it is quite acceptable even though it may not be perfect because, and I would like to hear the Hon. Members views on that, Canada is still a member of NATO and NORAD. It is a well known fact that the New Democratic Party some months ago supported Canada's withdrawal from NATO, but during the last elections, after looking at opinion polls, the New Democratic Party changed positions, the implication being they would remain within NATO for years to come.

Under these circumstances, after the Hon. Member adduced figures suggesting the Canadian Government would invest massively into the arms industry, will he recognize that the Canadian armament industry's main activity is not into manufacturing offensive weapons but strictly transport aircraft and communications equipment or is he not aware of that fact? I believe this is the essential part of our military industry's activities. Again, in view of the fact Canada is a member of NATO and

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NORAD, it must ensure it is well supplied with that kind of equipment. Again, it is terrible to imply Canada is essentially into offensive weapons and war equipment, when the facts are quite different—essentially, we are manufacturing transport planes and communications equipment to supply our troupes and those of our allies.

I would therefore welcome the Hon. Member's comments on those investments generated in Canada.

[*English*]

Mr. de Jong: Mr. Speaker, as I understand it, the Hon. Member has basically asked me two questions. One is the nature of our defence investments. The Hon. Member claims that they are essentially defensive rather than offensive in nature. Second, he is interested in our position regarding NATO. Let me deal with the question about the nature of the weapons first.

In this day and age, it is very difficult, if it ever was possible, to differentiate between offensive and defensive. A number of years ago, I raised concerns in the House about Canada's involvement in the production of biochemical weaponry. At that time, the Liberal Minister of Defence assured me that they were all for defensive purposes. One can argue that these weapons are to be used to defend oneself or used as offensive weapons. A rifle can be used in both directions. I do not think it is fair to say that these weapons are only for defensive purposes. They can also be used for offensive purposes, and it has been shown that some of the countries we have been selling them to can use them for offensive purposes and have done so.

Let me now deal with the question concerning NATO. The position of the NDP, through its resolutions, has been that Canada should withdraw from NATO. That remains our position, and as such, I make no apologies for that.

Members of the New Democratic Party would like to see NATO and the Warsaw Pact, the alliances, eventually dismantled. That is our goal. We have recognized that the timing of such withdrawal requires some flexibility. In order to further our long-term goal of seeing that both NATO and the Warsaw Pact are disbanded, we need to play our card of moving out of NATO at the most appropriate time.