

*The Address—Mr. Trudeau*

further funds available when once the delivery blockage is removed. If it is not quickly removed, we shall take other appropriate steps.

While struggling to bring some relief to the suffering peoples in Nigeria, Canada has at the same time been active in its attempts to avoid future situations where political differences might be employed to prevent adequate relief efforts. Canada proposed, and then co-sponsored with Norway, three important measures to this end at the 21st International Red Cross Conference in Istanbul in September. A declaration of principles for international humanitarian relief to civilian populations in disaster situations was unanimously adopted. Two other resolutions were overwhelmingly carried. These are designed to produce international legal principles which will be supplementary to those now in effect in the four General Red Cross Conventions of 1949. They are intended to remove any doubts about responsibility for humanitarian assistance to victims of armed conflicts, whether these conflicts are of an international or a civil character. This was an important initiative, welcomed on all sides. It is another example of the quiet, persistent and often effective way in which Canada, through its skilled representatives abroad, discharges its responsibilities in the international community.

In still another variation of threats to innocent persons, this country will within a period of days have completed the formalities precedent to ratifying the Tokyo Conventions concerning hi-jacking of aircraft. Canada is also the co-sponsor of a resolution now before the United Nations concerning acts of piracy in the air.

The need for constant attention to man's foolishness in the name of pride, of honour, of vanity, must not be underestimated, Mr. Speaker. War, as the newspapers attest every day, is no stranger to this planet. In Nigeria, in the Middle East, in Viet Nam, it flickers and flares. Elsewhere, persons suffer and die as a result of military activities which are not described formally as "war". In southern Africa, and many other parts of the world, personal activities are restricted and human freedoms are confined by military and paramilitary activities. Any of these incidents, or others similar to them, could burst from their confines without notice, and envelop us all.

No single international activity, therefore, rates higher priority in the opinion of this government than the pursuit of effective arms

[Mr. Trudeau.]

control and arms limitation agreements. Canada refuses to submit without protest to the present nuclear hegemony. It is deeply concerned at the failure of the important nuclear powers, the U.S.S.R., the U.S.A., China and France, so far to ratify the non-proliferation treaty, article VI of which binds parties to negotiate in good faith on measures leading to the cessation of the nuclear arms race, to nuclear disarmament, and to general and complete disarmament. At the same time that ratification is delayed, the development of multiple warhead rockets continues in two of these countries, a development that could make satellite inspection and verification of arms control agreements impossible. The world now stands at a crossroads which, if passed unwisely, could lead to the destruction of mankind. Canada pleads with both the U.S.A. and the U.S.S.R. quickly to begin their strategic arms limitation talks.

● (2:30 p.m.)

In the course of negotiations at the United Nations 26 nation disarmament conference are two conventions, one intended to prevent the nuclearization of the seabed, and the other to control chemical and biological means of warfare. In these negotiations Canada is deeply and energetically involved, represented by some of its most talented public servants. We are at the same time examining very carefully our own activities in research areas to ensure that we are not in any way contributing in an unintended fashion to a situation which all mankind properly regards as abhorrent. Canada is seeking in these studies and in these negotiations, as the world has sought and attained in other environments and for other purposes, international régimes for the protection and the advantage of all countries.

The threat to the human race is so real that we must not permit false reasoning to hinder us in our endeavours. If the application of out-of-date military strategies to alliances with old and trusted friends might lead not to the desired deterrent effect but instead to provocation and to obstacles to détente, then these strategies must be re-examined. In these instances it is the strategy, not the alliance, that worries Canada and we will not hesitate to suggest correctives with the same vigour that we contributed to the establishment of the alliance.

Membership in a community, Mr. Speaker, imposes—and properly—certain limitations on the activities of all members. For this reason, while not lowering our guard or abandoning