

follow up to the Bahamas meeting, and announce that Canada would sever its diplomatic ties with South Africa within a couple of months of that meeting.

As the Prime Minister said himself, the House unanimously condemns the apartheid system anyway. We are not very far apart as far as means are concerned, and I believe that the major and most important difference of opinion at this time is related to the fact that the Prime Minister has still not decided that he can set a target date after which our relations with South Africa must be severed. However, I know that he will consider the suggestion made by the Opposition and that we can continue to have a non-partisan policy in this regard.

I also want to refer to the Commonwealth Conference as the Prime Minister spoke about external aid. We are all very happy that a few minor changes have been made to create a relatively favourable impression, but it still remains, and other countries should clearly know this, that our policy has unfortunately been changed and that the objective of allocating 0.7 per cent of our gross national product to external aid has been set aside by this Government, that it has simply reduced the total amount which we had promised to provide to developing countries in external aid and that the commitment of Canada for external aid amounts to less than it did previously. However, the changes proposed here are obviously welcome even though, as a whole, they do not improve the image created by the Government when it imposed cutbacks in this regard last November.

[*English*]

Let me turn to the issue of world peace and nuclear disarmament which is a great preoccupation of all Canadians and the world. As the Right Hon. Prime Minister knows, the meeting between the leaders of the superpowers next month will be a great occasion. I believe we all want those two leaders to have the great wisdom to be able to find a common ground during this extremely important meeting.

I had the privilege in May and June to travel across Canada and witness the deep concern felt by Canadians about this problem. There has been great participation by Canadians on this issue, because since January the summit in Quebec left the impression that the Government would support the star wars program. After the storm that was created, and reflecting opinions throughout Canada, we are happy that the Prime Minister and the Government decided to accept the point of view of Canadians and of the two opposition Parties. We are grateful for that.

I am somewhat disappointed that the Prime Minister did not include in his statement an attempt to put pressure on the American Government to include the star wars program or the SDI Program on the agenda. The American administration, when dealing with Canadian problems, insists that everything be on the table when negotiating free trade. However, when negotiating peace in the world, nuclear disarmament and nuclear control, not all the issues are on the table. I believe that is very inconsistent. While there may be a secret which

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cannot be shared with the House of Commons, basically we must believe what we see. However, when it comes to world peace we should make it clear to the Americans that human survival should not be negotiated secretly but with our greatest skill and logic. When talking about a reduction of deadly nuclear weapons in the world, we must ensure that we do not move into a new area involving nuclear weapons in space. That is why it is so disappointing that this new escalation is left out of the equation completely. We must insist that there not be an escalation of confrontation in the universe but that there should be instead a concentration on the reduction of nuclear arms on the earth and in the sea in order to make progress toward global peace.

I hope that the meeting in Geneva in November will not be distracted as a result of too many people filling the agenda with too many other problems that will prevent the consideration of the fundamental problem of nuclear disarmament. The fundamental problem concerns nuclear disarmament and preventing the increase of stockpiling of nuclear arms to the detriment of world peace and resulting in the creation of more hunger in the world. All the money that is spent to build these deadly weapons and develop the star war concept could be better used to feed the poor and educate the weak of the world.

I believe that we all want to remain as non-partisan as possible about these problems. When the Prime Minister travels in the near future I hope he will convey these messages from the Canadian public.

The Prime Minister referred to free trade and other matters. I want to tell the Prime Minister and I repeat to Canadians that the problem is a very, very delicate one. When I see the Prime Minister of Japan preoccupied about the global negotiations with the Americans on trade, it means we have to be careful.

● (1540)

In January last year I travelled in Japan. Many people were afraid about the new trend, that of the Canadian administration moving closer to the American administration. The Japanese see Canada as an international partner that can make its own decisions. They hope that Canada will remain a partner that can be relied upon as a secure supplier.

One of the fundamental problems of the Japanese Government and the Japanese businessmen, because they do not have these resources inland, is that they have to go around the world to get what they require from different countries. Up to now the Japanese have always looked upon Canada as an independent country that makes its own decisions.

If ever there were a crisis between the United States and Japan, they want to be sure that they could still come to Canada as they go to Brazil, Australia, Malaysia and so on because Canada has always been a secure supplier of goods. I am not surprised that Prime Minister Nakasone was preoccupied about the global negotiations. He must wonder why a country like Canada, having a surplus of \$21 billion, wants to get into global negotiations. Canada is not going to these negotiations in a strong position, but in a weak position. We