

NATO

they are found throughout the world. Mr. Speaker, it seems to me that if anything stands out as one studies the history of mankind it is that in the long run bigger armaments and more power blocs do not lead to peace, that in the long run love is stronger than hate, that kindness is better than cruelty, that the outstretched hand will do more than the clenched fist. A country like Canada, bursting with food supplies, some of which we cannot get rid of, with our great productive capacity, with our technological know-how to help underdeveloped countries to help themselves, with a generation of young people who will go to the four corners of the earth to help people as teachers, doctors, nurses, farmers and artisans, could play a major role in helping to remove what in the final analysis is the basic cause of war, man's frustration arising out of his difficulties in trying to survive.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the hon. member for York South (Mr. Lewis):

That the amendment be amended by deleting all the words after the word "condemns" and by substituting therefor the following words:

"the failure of the government to announce the withdrawal of the Canadian forces from Europe, its failure to demand, as a condition of Canada's continuing membership in the Alliance, that NATO change its role from concentration on military measures to one of energetic pursuit of détente in Europe, and also its failure to propose a substantial reduction in defence expenditures and a large increase in assistance to developing nations."

• (4:40 p.m.)

[Translation]

Mr. Réal Caouette (Témiscamingue): Mr. Speaker, an amendment moved by the Conservatives and a sub-amendment moved by the New Democratic party are now before the house.

The Conservatives are vigorously protesting against the shift from internationalism to isolationism reflected in the statements made by the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) on April 3 and 12.

However, the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Stanfield) forgot to make concrete proposals as to the part that Canada must play within NATO. The sub-amendment moved by the New Democratic party sets forth three reasons why the government is to blame. I quote:

—the withdrawal of the Canadian forces from Europe, its failure to demand, as a condition of Canada's continuing membership in the Alliance, that NATO change its role from concentration on military measures to one of energetic pursuit of

[Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands.)

détente in Europe, and also its failure to propose a substantial reduction in defence expenditures and a large increase in assistance to developing nations.

Mr. Speaker, we are not bringing in any amendment because we are prohibited from doing so under standing orders, but nevertheless we want to express our opinion on Canada's role within NATO since its inception in 1949.

A brief look at the history of NATO reveals immediately why it was instituted. In fact, the second world war lasted from 1939 to 1945, when the Russians were our allies. The allied forces won the war in June 1945.

When hostilities ended in Berlin and the Russians were not yet occupying that city, the Americans, the English and the Canadians were asked to postpone their triumphal entry into Berlin so that the Russians could take that part of the city which they are now occupying. This agreement was reached with the consent of all the countries that were members of the Alliance during the war.

However, following that memorable victory, the Russians wanted more than just a victory. They wanted to spread their economic theories, through international communism, in as many countries as possible. And this is when came the idea of uniting the North Atlantic countries into an alliance, which was to become NATO and of which Canada was to become a member, so as to ward off any possible attack from the Russians against any of the countries concerned, whether the United States, Canada or any other member country of the Alliance.

[English]

The North Atlantic Treaty signed in Washington on April 4, 1949 by the foreign ministers of Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, the United Kingdom and the United States was ratified by the legislatures of the member countries within five months after signing. It came into force on August 24, 1949. Greece and Turkey joined the alliance on February 18, 1952 and the Federal Republic of Germany on May 9, 1955.

[Translation]

On May 9, 1955, that is about six years after the formation of NATO, the Federal Republic of Germany, where our forces are stationed at the present time, became a member of NATO.

Mr. Speaker, the avowed aims of the Organization, when it was created, were the following, and I quote:

[English]

In summary, the parties agreed to settle international disputes by peaceful means, to refrain