

Three years later the concept of the strategy of suffocation remains valid. The government takes every opportunity to reaffirm the importance it attaches to the continuation of the SALT process and to the realization of a verifiable comprehensive test ban treaty. These priorities, together with assisting in the preparation of a convention ban on chemical weapons and the promotion of the evolution of an effective non-proliferation regime, will guide Canadian preparations for the second United Nations special session on disarmament next year in which Canada intends to take an active part.

● (1710)

As the Prime Minister has indicated, in the 1980s we must look for new ways of dealing with tension and threats to peace through new forms of consultation and crisis management, including ways of dealing with regional crisis. Peacekeeping has been an important Canadian contribution to the search for international stability in the 1970s. We are hopeful that the wide range of multilateral machinery built in the 1970s will provide us with a good basis for developing these new ways of approaching security-related issues. It is particularly important to recall that the instability of our world, which we expect to deepen in the 1980s, is of a different, less predictable character, centred to some extent in the growing interdependence between industrialized and Third World nations.

The peace and security of Canada thus is becoming increasingly linked to regional tensions and crises. Regional crises are rarely contained in one particular region. There is a growing spillover effect. There are wide-ranging repercussions that have a multidimensional impact far from their points of origin. A regional crisis of a military or a political nature in one region can have an economic impact on the other side of the globe; witness the economic impact of the Arab-Israeli war and the Iran-Iraqi war on the West. On the other hand, the shock waves from an economic crisis in one region can trigger a military or political crisis elsewhere.

[*Translation*]

Closer interdependence means that Canada cannot remain isolated from the crises which erupt elsewhere in the world. We are particularly concerned about certain unstable areas. The crisis which threatens the stability of the Asiatic subcontinent has got us greatly concerned. I have already mentioned the mounting East-West tensions and the right hon. the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) dwelled on that subject. I am convinced that Canadians would find it unacceptable if their government were to maintain a policy of détente towards the U.S.S.R. while closing its eyes on Soviet activities in foreign lands. The invasion of Afghanistan had a very negative impact on the interests of the world community. The Russians' refusal to change their position on that question has seriously jeopardized the situation. For all practical purposes, the Soviet Union ignored world opinion as expressed in two resolutions which gained very wide support in the General Assembly. The peace and stability of that area and of the community of nations will be endangered for as long as Afghanistan has not regained its

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sovereignty, its independence and its status of non-aligned nation.

The situation in Southern Africa enables us to entertain hopes and fear deceptions. Hopes because there seems to be a possibility that Zimbabwe might evolve towards a democratic and multiracial society, but deceptions as well because the policies of South Africa remain unchanged. Last fall at the United Nations I spoke of the permanent affront to humankind which the apartheid policy represents. The government feels it is despicable.

We also maintain that South Africa must loosen its grip on Namibia. The mere fact that the Namibian issue remains on the list of critical problems in foreign policy proves it. The intransigence of the South African government is the only obstacle to a negotiated settlement, one which would allow the Namibian people to gain independence through a free and fair election in which all Namibians could take part. Such an election under the supervision of the United Nations is the focal point of Resolution 435 of the UN Security Council and Settlement Plan. Our support in this regard is unconditional. However, new elements may have to be added to Resolution 435 to win over all the parties involved to its provisions and the terms of the UN Plan. But I must point out that any addition must be in complete agreement with the basic principles of the resolution. In our view, there is therefore no question of amending the resolution, but rather of ensuring its implementation. The addition of new elements with the agreement of all parties involved should aim not at weakening it, but at giving it full effect.

I want to point out to our African friends that Canada has only one purpose in this matter, that is independence for Namibia. We have nothing to gain and, indeed, much to lose as long as Namibia is occupied illegally by South Africa. We have indicated to the latter that only an international solution can be a lasting one and that only an international solution will bring stability and security to the region. The resolution of the Namibian issue is as much in the interest of South Africa as of the other parties involved. Canada will continue to work for a negotiated solution, but in the final analysis, South Africa will have to make the decision. It was not ready to proceed last January at the Geneva conference. I hope that on reflection it will agree to a direction and a plan which has the approval of the entire world community.

The Middle East is an area of the Third World which is of vital and direct interest the West as a whole. It is the focus of the convergent interests of North-South and East-West relationships. The economic development of a large part of the world is intimately linked to the Middle East and the issues of concern to this area should be given priority by all international organizations. This government's policy is, whenever possible, to facilitate understanding and promote dialogue. Tension in the Middle-East is multidimensional and its most important aspect is the Arab-Israeli crisis for which a long-term solution