

A fundamental principle of international law makes national territory inviolable and forbids intervention by other countries. To undermine that principle is terribly dangerous. And Reagan violated not only the principle but specific treaties.

The actions of the President of the United States this week have done all of us serious harm.

I would like to say that on Sunday of this week, just two days before the invasion of Grenada, I joined with all Members of the House and all Canadians, indeed with people all over the world, in sharing American feelings of shock, anger and sorrow over the deaths of so many young Americans and young French soldiers in Beirut. I think we still share that sorrow. But American actions in Grenada this week make it very, very difficult to continue to be sympathetic.

I am deeply saddened when a country like the United States which in so many ways is a great society, in so many other ways proves itself to be an international bully.

● (2340)

In conclusion, I would say that I think we all have to condemn this aggression just as we condemn any and all unjustified invasions. We have to subscribe to the motion moved by my Leader this evening and to the comments of Shridath S. Ramphal, the Secretary General of the Commonwealth, that this was a deplorable act of blatant aggression.

Mr. Walter McLean (Waterloo): Mr. Speaker, I rise to join my colleagues in the House this evening to speak in this emergency debate. I am reminded, as we have all been, that the invasion of this Caribbean Island underlines the fragility of our world and of our international systems. I am moved by this regrettable incident to join in this debate and to add my voice to those who have expressed sympathy, regret and concern, and also, in the moments given to me, to reflect upon some concerns regarding Canadian foreign policy and Canadian involvement in peace-making processes.

We have heard this evening in great detail the record of the events of the past week. We are seeking from this side of the House more clarification regarding the responsibility and the circumstances. Surely the intention of this debate is not just to beat the wind but rather that we be instruments in this Parliament and be expressive of the concerns of all Canadians that there be security and, a sense of peace and tranquility. This has been reflected in the speeches of leaders and spokespersons on all sides of the House. We heard the sentiments of my colleague, the Hon. Member for Dartmouth-Halifax East (Mr. Forrestall) regarding the caring which may be a part of the Canadian response to this situation.

I want to say that it was a pleasure to work in close association with the Hon. Member for Labelle (Mr. Dupras), who was for more than 18 months the chairman of the subcommittee of this House, reviewing the matter of Canada's policy in relation to Latin America and the Caribbean, and also to work with the Hon. Member for New Westminster-Coquitlam (Miss Jewett), who has already participated in the debate. The overriding finding of our subcommittee, which was made up of 15 Members from all sides of the House, was

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that Canadian foreign policy ought to be concerned with stability in the region and that all of our efforts ought to be directed toward being an instrument of stability. We saw, not only in Central America but in the Caribbean basin nations also, the seeds of great discontent. I echo the concern of the distinguished chairman of that subcommittee when he calls upon the Government for a middle power strategy. I ask with him, where is the Government's response to the committee report? If we had been taking action through this period, tonight at midnight we would not be echoing across the nation our hurt and concern for our hemisphere. We should have taken seriously some of the recommendations and the studies. In a motion I wish to echo for the House what we heard from leaders in the Caribbean basin regarding that particular area. I say to you, Mr. Speaker, that tonight we can make charge or countercharge or we can take a moment to reflect on the fragility of our world, the needs of the United Nations and the need to revamp and to reorganize the Commonwealth. We can begin to use this unfortunate incident in the life of the world to set into place some of the instruments that will lead to some sense of stability in the future that will once again show Canadian leadership, something which unfortunately since the Pearson and Diefenbaker years has gone into the distant past.

I believe it is time for Canada to come forward with a sensible initiative as a senior and influential member of the Commonwealth, one that will encourage the deployment of instruments of order in our world rather than instruments of war. The potential role of mediator that international institutions are intended to play cannot be overestimated by this House or by Canadians.

Multilateral consultations are the only reasonable means of ensuring a balanced and lasting resolution to the conflicts we are now discussing concerning Grenada, the Middle East and other parts of our world. We ought to consider ways to strengthen United Nations' efforts in peace and security matters. Nations all too frequently bypass the United Nations with no condemnation or censure from this House, the Parliaments of the world, or the middle powers. We ought to be leading middle power initiatives, as my colleague, the Hon. Member for Labelle, calls on his own Party to give leadership in doing.

Let me suggest that UN activities are also hampered by the confrontation between the United States and the Soviet Union. No organization can be fully effective without the co-operation of two of its most powerful members. They, like all others in the world, are open to suasion, to morale and to public opinion. The Security Council needs to utilize more fully its authorities under Chapter VI of the Charter. This authority is to prevent international disputes likely to endanger international peace and security from escalating into armed conflicts and to exercise preventive diplomacy. If this authority of the Security Council were being exercised, the controversy plaguing us in this House tonight might have been averted. Canada, to its credit, once pioneered the dispatching of peacekeeping forces to trouble spots in our world. Now is the time, with other like minded nations, for Canada to pioneer a world security system. Let me suggest, Mr. Speaker, that a reliable security