

therefore, do not intend to say anything further about them at present.

The Canadian parliament might be pleased to know that although its delegation was a small one—all the delegations were small, by arrangement—it was a hard-working one. I might even say we were up long before day-break and working hard into the night. Perhaps, though, I should add that day breaks around ten o'clock in Helsinki at this time of the year and night falls around four o'clock!

We received excellent co-operation and assistance in every way from Canada's ambassador in Helsinki, Mr. Ernest Côté. He is a man who is well known to many Members of Parliament, having served in a number of senior government posts here before being appointed ambassador to Finland. The delegation is especially indebted to Mr. Peter Dobell from the Parliamentary Centre for Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade who accompanied the delegation as adviser. His advice and counsel were invaluable. I should also say that the arrangements made by the staff of the Parliamentary Association here in Ottawa were excellent. Everything was arranged in a way which made it possible for our delegation to function in the best possible manner.

As I said earlier, the two Canadian resolutions were dealt with in committees two and three. Committee two dealt with proposals in the area of economic relations. Committee three dealt with proposals for co-operation in the areas of science, technology, education and culture as well as with proposals concerning exchanges of persons and information. I served on the first committee which dealt with proposals in the area of security. That committee had this to say:

The Conference,

1. Wishes to see national Parliaments contribute to the organization of détente and the strengthening of security in Europe;
2. Notes that the security of the European continent is dependent, to a large extent, on each State respecting and applying the generally recognized principles of international law which govern inter-State relations;
3. Is aware of the need to give concrete significance to the above-mentioned principles;
4. Appeals to Governments to examine, at the Conference, on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE), the question of the system for the peaceful settlement of disputes and, in case of need, that of its improvement;
5. Calls upon the Parliaments and Governments of each State to consider:

(a) Implementing steps to create greater mutual confidence among the Governments concerned leading to a genuine reduction of tensions, such as by giving advance notice of manoeuvres and exchanging observers;

(b) Stimulating a mutual and balanced reduction of armed forces and armaments in Europe, through negotiations which would be accessible to all states concerned, with a view to gradually reducing all armed forces and armaments to a less dangerous level and to ensuring the equal security of States, taking into account that the disarmament problem constitutes an essential component of security;

(c) Taking concerted action to combat terrorism in Europe and support the ratification of international conventions in this field.

I shall conclude by saying that I hope my contribution is in accord with a procedure which I believe to be an

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excellent one and which I hope will continue as a general practice in the future in relation to the work of parliamentary associations, as noted by the mover of the motion.

Mr. Barnett J. Danson (York North): Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to take part in this discussion. I welcome the procedure initiated by the hon. member for Fundy-Royal (Mr. Fairweather). I think it is an excellent precedent, one which will ensure that the proceedings and reports of such conferences as these are placed on record in parliament and discussed in a serious way. I am particularly pleased to follow the hon. member for Malpeque (Mr. MacLean) who, with his customary modesty, told the House he was the nominal head of the delegation. He was the head of the delegation in every sense of the word, and he led our delegation with dignity and distinction. I think we should be grateful to him.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Danson: It was my pleasure to serve on the third committee, known at the conference as the Social and Cultural Committee. I was always social, although I have never been accused of being cultural. This is the committee referred to, more fully, as the committee considering proposals for co-operation in the areas of science, technology, education and culture, as well as the exchange of persons and information. It was this exchange of persons which was of particular interest to us, as the hon. member for Fundy-Royal has said.

It was necessary, as a matter of fact, to establish a Canadian interest in a conference on European security and co-operation, even in our own minds, so as to put the meetings into a proper context. As the hon. member for Fundy-Royal has said, the very nature of Canada gives us our European context and purpose. I do not mean in any way to suggest that our native peoples are less important in any sense. Such a large part of our population can find its roots in Europe, and our culture is deeply rooted there. Canadians have fought in Europe in two world wars and have a presence in European security today through NATO. Thus, we cannot divorce ourselves from this presence; it is one that we should nourish and encourage, not only for the value it adds to the richness of our culture and the people represented in Canada, but for the pragmatic reason that it is in our best interests to maintain a position in Europe.

• (1720)

Although we have considerable trouble maintaining our identity on this continent, the world is breaking up into security and economic blocs and we do not want to see ourselves isolated or to isolate ourselves. Therefore, the Canadian presence was a very legitimate one, and it was of interest to the delegates to the conference, in establishing this point, that we gave an indication of the ethnic make-up of our own country. I am sorry that I did not bring the statistics with me which we used in Helsinki, but after the British and the French, the Italians and Germans are the next largest ethnic groups. The Ukrainians are the fifth largest ethnic group. However, as you go down the list you find that every country with representatives at the conference had sent immigrants to Canada, with the possible exception of San Marino. I think this