

*Private Members' Business*

We have today in the news that one of the accused has confessed to the murder. It seems to be a way to cover up who really is responsible for the murder. There are allusions that it will be right up to the highest level in the Brazilian government.

What we are talking about in this motion gives us an ability to focus on the very pervasive concern there is: rain forest, money, human rights violations, and international debt.

I also had the opportunity earlier this fall of meeting Mutang Tuo who is a native of Sarawak in Borneo. He came to talk about the need to preserve the rain forest in his country. I was quite moved, having listened to him, because it is his home.

David Suzuki was before our caucus yesterday. He made it very clear that we in the northern countries do not seem to have a real depth of understanding that there are biological limits, that we are biological creatures, and that air, water and soil do not respect human boundaries. Mutang Tuo did.

When we talk about the destruction of the rain forests, it is not just trees we are talking about, it is indigenous peoples. Rain forest destruction is a major contributor to global warming. As a member of the parliamentary committee on the environment which has been examining the phenomenon of global warming and the threat to our global survival that that presents, this rain forest destruction is very real to me.

Rain forest destruction also reduces natural diversity, wiping out countless species before their potential uses in medicine, agriculture and industry are even discovered.

As Mutang Tuo very graphically demonstrated to me, it is also about the destruction of forest dwellers—human beings. This is not just in Sarawak. It is happening all around the world. It is happening in Malaysia, Indonesia, Cameroon, Zaire, Peru, Colombia and Brazil.

Canada contributes to this problem. This is why this motion is so cleverly crafted. Although we do not import a lot of tropical wood, we are a contributor in a kind of back-door approach through the international financial institutions. Canadians have to realize, and I hope that those who are watching this evening will take note, that Canada does contribute to the deforestation of the

tropical rain forests. Probe International has done a lot of work in getting us to understand this.

In the Cameroons a loan from the World Bank will primarily be used to finance the infrastructure for commercial logging in 3.5 million hectares of rain forest. No environmental assessment is required because of the sort of back-door approach that the World Bank is taking on it.

Another actor in this problem in the Cameroons is the African Development Bank. Here is where the Canadian connection is quite clear. Canada is a member of the African Development Bank and last year gave \$130 million to it. The African Development Bank is quietly preparing even bigger loans through the World Bank to help Cameroon devour its rain forest.

What we have to understand is that Cameroon does not have a lot of flexibility in how it addresses its financial problems. It is an underdeveloped country. Canada should be using its role in the international financial institutions, through the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund—our finance minister is a director of the International Monetary Fund—to ensure through that very direct mechanism that Canada does not contribute to the destruction of the tropical rain forests in Cameroon, Malaysia, Indonesia, Sarawak, Peru and Colombia because we are all going to pay if that rain forest is destroyed.

We are going to be paying, not just in the cost of human rights violations—that is, as human beings we feel for people who are hurt, we feel for the people who are moved off their land and out of their way of life—but also because the destruction of the tropical rain forest is a very real threat to our global environment. This is the issue that is going to be before us over the coming decades, if we have that long.

The Global Conference on Debt and Adjustment recommended that Canada's directors on the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank work to solve this problem. I think we have to be very conscious that Canada has an important role. We are one of the G-7 countries.

I want to alert people out there that they have a role to play in this as well. I am not optimistic that Canada is going to take the right approach. I am not optimistic for two major reasons, which are very real to me as a parliamentarian who has been here for just over two years. I participated on the international debt report for the external affairs and international trade committee. The government response to that report, called, "Secur-