

External Affairs

association with the alliance, but I have to ask myself whether it will really strengthen NATO if the conditions found by the commission remain. In other words, I have to ask myself whether, if these conditions remain and the commission is not able within a reasonable period of time to give Greece a clean bill of health with regard to human rights, the continued participation of Greece in the NATO alliance would do more to strengthen the alliance in a material way than it would to weaken it in a moral way. Therefore, while I would not press the Secretary of State for External Affairs to take a different position with regard to the membership of Greece in NATO in the immediate future, I hope the government of Canada will take up with our allies in NATO the question of the future and ask itself, ask our allies and ask Greece what should be done with a view to reopening the question of Greece's membership in NATO within a reasonable time if Greece is not able to purge itself before the European Commission of Human Rights. I say this as an earnest supporter of NATO, as one who wants to see the NATO alliance remain strong but also wants to see it remain respected, which is an essential part of its continuing strength.

I ask the Secretary of State for External Affairs to take into consideration not only the present position of the government with regard to the membership of Greece in NATO but what the position of the government will be if the present conditions in Greece, as found by the Commission, continue. In fact I would express grave doubts about the utility and usefulness of Greece remaining in NATO over a period of time if these conditions persist. I suggest very earnestly that if such conditions continue doubts will be raised in the minds of many people about the moral strength of the NATO alliance.

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): Mr. Speaker, the statement made by the minister is the kind of statement we have come to expect from this minister and this government. It is a statement expressing concern about injustice and totalitarianism but, as with most of these statements, it is followed by a clearcut assertion by the government that they are not prepared to do anything about it. It is not enough to say that we are concerned about undemocratic procedures in any part of the world. We ought to be prepared to back up our words with actions.

Naturally we are pleased that the minister has said that Canada abhors the repression

[Mr. Stanfield.]

and the injustice which have been perpetrated by the military regime in Greece, a regime that came to power by a military *coup d'état* which overthrew a democratically elected government and now retains office by all kinds of repression.

But the minister does not follow his sentiments of abhorrence by saying that the government is going to do anything. On the contrary, the minister says:

I am still of the view that it would not be desirable to force Greece from the Alliance. To do so would mean weakening NATO for no useful purpose.

It is probably true that from a military standpoint it would weaken the NATO alliance to have Greece out, but I submit that more than military considerations have to be taken into account. The fact is that the real strength of NATO, when it was first formed, lay not only in its military power but in its moral motivation. The primary purpose of NATO, as I recall the wording of the document, was for the defence of democratic institutions, and we are not going to defend democratic institutions in the eyes of the world by continuing to have in the alliance a country which has defied and broken all the precepts of democracy.

It seems to me that Canada, which is not involved in the European syndrome, is in an excellent position to state the case before the Council of Ministers of NATO. We should state categorically that we think that as long as Greece, or any other member of NATO, is carrying out policies which are contrary to democracy and which repress and destroy democracy, it has no place in the NATO alliance.

I certainly hope the government will reconsider its position on this matter and that when the representatives of the Canadian government attend the next meeting of NATO they will go there not only to state categorically that Canadians abhor what is happening in Greece but will urge our allies in NATO to request Greece to withdraw until such time as democracy has been reinstated in that troubled country. We have to say to the world that the purpose of NATO is to protect democratic institutions and that we cannot protect democratic institutions and fight totalitarianism on the left by the introduction of totalitarianism on the right.

[Translation]

Mr. Réal Caouette (Témiscamingue): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to have heard the Secretary of State for External Affairs state