

a key regional balance. In so doing, it has a significant effect on global strategic stability, not least because of the West's vital interests in oil. The use of force by the Soviet Union to achieve such ends is not acceptable.

There should be no doubt of the unanimity of this view amongst Western governments. I know that not all governments have responded in the same way. This has been for a variety of reasons. But there is absolute agreement that the Soviet action is inadmissible. We are all seeking the withdrawal of Soviet forces from Afghanistan and we are all committed to letting the Soviet Union know that we would not tolerate a similar action elsewhere.

I believe the Soviet Union understands the strength and unanimity of our feelings. In that sense, I think we can make too much of the differences in the responses by our governments. But I admit that Western governments have sometimes given an impression of a certain disarray. In part, this has been because of the inadequate consultation; in part, because of genuine differences of view on how best to proceed. We should realize that Afghanistan is outside the NATO defence perimeter, and thus outside the area in which the allies have traditionally focused their collective defence effort. It is not surprising, therefore, that there have been certain difficulties in consultation and co-ordination. We are seeking a means to respond to a new type of challenge. Viewed this way, I think the allies, Japan and Australia have done well to convey their position as clearly as they have, and to respond in concrete terms both to their relations with the Soviet Union and in trying to restore balance to South and Central Asia. One of the long-term consequences of the Soviet action in Afghanistan will be that it has required the allies to look outside their traditional defence perimeter and to consider the nature of their shared interests and the possibilities for co-ordinated action.

The Soviet invasion is clearly of very direct concern to the countries of South and Central Asia and the Gulf. Most of these countries are anxious to maintain their distance from superpower rivalry. Canada respects this. There are tensions or conflicts within the region, for example between Iran and Iraq or between India and Pakistan, which make it difficult for these states to unite to meet an external threat. Even so, there are various signs that the invasion of Afghanistan is leading them to think more about how they may co-operate in protecting their security.

Canada has been firm in its response to the Soviet Union. We have suspended scientific and cultural exchanges and high level visits. We have supported the grain embargo in this crop year. We have tightened trade in strategically sensitive technology. In the Speech from the Throne, the Government confirmed its determination to increase the ability of the NATO alliance to provide security for its members and to advance the cause of peace. The Government has indicated its decision to proceed with the purchase of a new fighter aircraft. More recently, we have announced our call for a Canadian boycott of the Olympics.

Some 60 governments from all parts of the world have committed themselves to a boycott. The boycott is having an obvious effect on the Soviet Union which is making great efforts to undermine it. There can be no doubt that the boycott will be