

• (1810)

President Gorbachev won the Nobel Prize last year for his initiatives and aggressiveness in putting on the table proposals for disarmament and peace. To give them credit, the West responded but sometimes responded too slowly.

Just this very week, we were working on a subcommittee of the Standing Committee on External Affairs to consider the renewal of the NORAD agreement. The NORAD agreement is an air defence agreement for Canada and the United States against the Soviet Union. One might ask: Why do we need to continue that agreement in light of the historic agreements that were signed in Paris and Vienna in the month of November? We were debating whether it should be renewed for five years. That seemed ridiculous to many of us. We thought that if it was to be renewed, it should only be renewed for a short period of time in order to search for a new type of agreement with the United States to survey the air space of North America, but not a NORAD-type agreement.

One could say the same with respect to the conference to amend the partial test ban treaty which will take place in New York at the United Nations in January. If there is no more cold war, why do we continue to build nuclear weapons? Why do we continue to test nuclear weapons?

In conclusion, let me say that Canadians want answers to these questions. They want leadership in these very important matters of life and death with respect to weapons of mass destruction. They are fed up with more rhetoric and drift. I hope tonight the parliamentary secretary will give me some answers.

**Mr. Jean-Guy Hudon (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of National Defence):** Mr. Speaker, I welcome this opportunity to speak to the subject of the Canadian commitment to Europe. I would like to begin by stating that Canada remains fully committed to collective security through the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. Canada will continue to contribute to the alliance as long as the need exists.

There are many who would suggest that the time has come to move our forces out of Europe. As hon. members are aware, we recently announced that we would be reducing our presence in Europe by some 1,400

### *Adjournment Debate*

personnel as part of the over-all reduction in the numbers of the Canadian forces due to defence budget cuts announced in February 1990.

The decrease in the level of threat in Europe has allowed us this opportunity, and a number of our allies have made similar reductions. However, I wish to emphasize that this in no way affects the continuing commitment of Canada or any of our allies to NATO and to collective security in Europe. Any change in our existing commitments to NATO will be carried out in harmony with our allies and in support of the current arms control negotiations.

Canada welcomes the signing of the CFE Treaty. Canada will play an active role in verifying the CFE agreement. A Canadian military verification organization has been established to deal with all aspects of the treaty. This verification regime could well become the most enduring element of a CFE treaty and the cornerstone of a new European military security framework.

Regarding the need for a defence review that incorporates all the changes now taking place, let me emphasize that a defence review is a forward looking exercise that attempts to set out Canada's defence needs in the 1990s and beyond. The review, which we hope to have completed by the spring, will take account of current operations as they apply to the future of the Canadian forces in Canada and abroad.

Therefore I am certain all members of this House can appreciate that the sudden withdrawal of all allied troops from Europe would be disruptive to the cohesion of the NATO alliance. This cohesion is essential as we enter the next stages of arms negotiations and reductions. More important, however, there is much uncertainty in many European countries as they adopt new democratic models. A stable NATO alliance can help greatly in this delicate transition period.

[*Translation*]

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois):** The motion to adjourn the House is now deemed to have been adopted. Accordingly this House stands adjourned until tomorrow at 2 p.m., pursuant to Standing Order 24(1).

The House adjourned at 6.16 p.m.