

*Special Debate*

degradation of the environment, social injustice and abuse of human rights.

A Bush/United States driven initiative in Somalia may not be the best entry into the new world community.

What is lacking from this decision? What is lacking for us here in Canada and probably for the whole world? What must we, as Canadians, be sure is in place if we are going to go on as part of this kind of intervention in the future?

First of all, it is necessary to define the principle of humanitarian intervention. What does it mean? Is military intervention justifiable in Somalia because civil order has collapsed, famine threatens the entire population and all other peacekeeping efforts have failed? Is rapid response absolutely necessary? Will those be the requirements of all intervention in the future? Or has the United Nations, in this particular situation, crossed the line in respect to sovereignty; is there need for a new definition of sovereignty which would not have allowed the United Nations to take this kind of action in the past?

Second, there must be a set timetable. To avoid a Vietnam syndrome sort of approach and to avoid the quagmire of continuing war, we should establish a deadline which will require the Security Council or at least the Secretary-General to have to renew the troops' mandate at some time in the future. That has not been done at this time but it should be recognized as a necessity in the future.

Third, we should sign up more allies. A U.S. operation, conditional on U.S. leadership, smells too much of Desert Storm. Europeans and other African states, as part of the intervening troops, would make the intervention much more palatable to many people of the world, and I am sure to the Somalians as well.

The leadership should be UN driven. Again, U.S. command does not sit well to many people. A multinational command would be more United Nations related and would not contribute to the United States global cop image.

Fourth, we should define the goals now. It is obvious that the short-term goal is humanitarian related and the disarming of the warring factions within Somalia.

• (2110)

What are the long-term goals and who will fulfil them? In every case is this to be the kind of intervention

that we can expect in the future? There must be long-term goals not only in Somalia but in other countries where the UN is operating. There should be action to help the Somalians build a new society.

A large number of NGOs from Canada has been operating in the Horn area. They met on November 26 and November 27 in Ottawa. The idea of intervention into this particular situation was brought before the meeting. They had great concerns. They suggested that the proposed massive intervention may jeopardize the long-term prospects of peace in the region, but they agree that intervention is possible and is probably absolutely necessary under the circumstances.

However they say the intervention should be limited. No more than is absolutely necessary should be put in and the intervention should be monitored. It should not be left up to the United States. It should be monitored by someone who can be objective about what is going on at a particular time. It should also be monitored within recognition of the regional realities of the particular area. In other words, although they think this is necessary they have a great concern that it must be done properly.

That is my message here tonight. If we are going to do this in the future as we have done in the past but under new terms, those terms must be established so that we do this right, that we do not add to the dangers of the situation but make them better for the future.

[*Translation*]

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Pronovost):** The House will now hear two members of the Official Opposition for a 20 minute period to be divided equally. The next 10 minutes are for the hon. member for Bonavista—Trinity—Conception.

[*English*]

**Mr. Fred J. Mifflin (Bonavista—Trinity—Conception):** Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to have the opportunity to debate the motion before us this evening.

I have watched like all our colleagues the situation unfold over past months and indeed in the last few days since we have more or less had a commitment of troops to the area. I see many similarities in the situation tonight as had existed almost two years ago to the day with respect to committing troops to the gulf, young Canadian sailors, soldiers and airmen in a situation of risk as is always associated with peacekeeping but in this