

Adjournment Debate

cal bias which has come to dominate UNESCO programs. Under the present leadership of Amadu Mahtar M'Bow, the program of UNESCO has gone beyond the parameters originally intended. It has become a political more than a cultural instrument of the United Nations. It has become the advocate of policies and objectives not shared by the member nations that have supported it.

In the face of not only continued protests, but in the face of United States withdrawal, representing the loss of 27 per cent of UNESCO's budget, some gestures toward reform of UNESCO have been made. For example, a no-growth budget has been adopted. Economies of about \$20 million have been effected to close the gap left by the loss of United States funding. However, as the Minister's answer indicated, the Government of Canada is not satisfied and should not be satisfied with these efforts. We therefore have to think about what Canada should do at the annual meeting of UNESCO at Sofia, Bulgaria, next fall. What attitude can Canada show that will do justice to the significance, seriousness and enormity of the situation?

I am one Member of Parliament who thinks that Canada's withdrawal from UNESCO should be the very last option taken. There is still a mountain of ignorance for humanity to climb, and we need to lend a helping hand to our fellow humans as together we try to climb that mountain. UNESCO offers us at least the opportunity of offering that hand. I also believe that passive acquiescence with what has been tolerated too long is not an acceptable option. We should not be satisfied with any gesture of wrist-slapping by Canada that will make no significant difference to the attitudes and policies of those in charge of UNESCO. It should be obvious that nothing short of changing the leadership of UNESCO will be adequate.

Last summer the Canadian people showed that they wanted this country to have a change of direction. They recognized the need for a change of leadership and hence this Parliament has come into being. We need to have the same realism in assessing the future of UNESCO. There is very little serious chance that UNESCO will make major reforms in its administration or in its ideological bias until there is a significant change in the leadership.

I therefore hope that in addition to the watching brief that the Minister and the Department are carrying on now, they will give serious consideration to Canada taking the initiative, with other supporting member nations, toward requiring that there be a change of leadership at the top of UNESCO. Only when we have that kind of change can we expect that

UNESCO will show the kind of change that will prevent other member nations from withdrawing.

[*Translation*]

Mrs. Monique Landry (Parliamentary Secretary to Secretary of State): Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to reply to the question and to the concern expressed by my colleague for Scarborough West (Mr. Stackhouse).

The Canadian Government is still reviewing its participation in UNESCO, as indicated by the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Clark) in his letter dated October 1, 1984, to the General Director of UNESCO, Mr. Amadou M'Bow. The Secretary of State for External Affairs has also told Mr. M'Bow that our final decision will depend upon the results of the reform UNESCO is now undergoing. In the context of our review, we are establishing criteria to measure the extent of the reform and the improvements made to UNESCO operations. Our evaluation of Canadian participation will also take into account the objectives, interests and activities of Canada within UNESCO, including the interests of the provinces.

[*English*]

The recently concluded special session of the executive board had mixed results. The need to reduce the budget by 25 per cent because of the withdrawal of the United States' contribution was not adequately discussed. On the other hand, there were limited successes registered at the meeting: agreement to include the U.S. as an observer; determination that the director general and the U.S. Government should negotiate the assumed financial obligation of the U.S. for 1985; consensus on concentration of activities in UNESCO; and finally, agreement that member states should not have their assessments increased as a result of the United States' withdrawal.

[*Translation*]

The Secretary of State for External Affairs recently expressed to the Executive Committee of the Canadian National Commission for UNESCO his disappointment at the pace and the progress of the reform now underway. He especially emphasized the need to strengthen UNESCO as a member of the UN family in the interests of the international system as a whole.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Charest): The motion to adjourn the House is now deemed to have been adopted. Accordingly, this House stands adjourned until tomorrow at 11 a.m., pursuant to Standing Order 2(1).

The House adjourned at 6:26 p.m.