

and gifted tenacity which we honour and support, the United Nations team focussed the parties on the issue. And what happened? Despite the completion of most of the details of the other items of negotiation, the Soviet Union would not give a reasonable time-frame for troop withdrawal.

Mr. President, it took them only 72 hours to get in. It need take no more than a week or two to get out. But if the political will is absent, then the military might remains.

The Afghanistan tragedy is one of othe most difficult and gloomy realities of contemporary international politics. When you look at it, year over year, it presents an unbroken facade of intractability.

In Canada, a joint committee of the House of Commons and Senate, representative of all three political parties, recently issued a report on International Relations. In the section devoted to Afghanistan there appears the following unanimous paragraph - quote

"This wholesale destruction of a people is being carried out by the Soviet Union and its puppet regime in Kabul for no other reason than crude geopolitical ambition. The Soviet Union has dispatched over 100,000 of its troops with the immediate aim of violent repression and the longer-term objective of reducing Afghanistan to a Soviet colony. As has happened so often in the history of colonialism, the imperial power failed to reckon with the national spirit and independence of the people. Despite the terrible slaughter, the Afghan people have not been subjugated. They are continuing to fight."

It is the heroism of that fight Mr. President, which brings us to this resolution and our imminent vote.

There are two tests confronting the General Assembly. One is for the Soviet Union. When the new General Secretary of the Soviet Union came to power, we all wanted to believe, and he wanted all of us to believe that there would be a new face on Soviet foreign policy. Afghanistan scars the countenance.

The Soviet Union would do itself an enormous favour and do the international community an incalculable boon were it to accept the reasonable contents of this resolution, the