

able Thomas McMillan, in speaking to the United Nations General Assembly, said:

Just as Canadians originally called for the Commission, generously funded it, and supported its work throughout, we are also consulting one another about how to act on its findings.

At the fall 1987 Inter-Parliamentary Union Conference Canada successfully proposed the inclusion of a debate in Guatemala City on the follow-up to the Brundtland Commission.

In addition, the agenda included the following subjects: peace and development leading to purely defensive military strategies; peace and development in Central America; and the current world situation.

Prior to our departure, the delegation received interesting and informative briefings from officials in the Department of External Affairs, the Department of the Environment, the Canadian International Development Agency and the International Development and Research Centre. Upon our arrival in Guatemala City, we had an excellent briefing on Canada-Guatemala relations by His Excellency Raymond Chrétien, our Ambassador, Ms. Dilys Buckley-Jones, our Chargé d'Affaires, and several staff members at our embassy in that city. Throughout our stay we received invaluable help and assistance from embassy officials. I should like to make particular mention of Mr. Bob Brack, who attended our daily breakfast caucuses and the conference proceedings.

On behalf of the delegation, I should also like to express our thanks and appreciation to the public servants who worked with us both here in Ottawa and in Guatemala.

Special mention should be made of Stephen Knowles and Barbara Reynolds. Throughout the pre-conference period, in making the necessary arrangements, and at the conference itself, the constant attention given by these two individuals added greatly to the effective performance of the Canadian delegation. Both Stephen and Barbara are well known in that

international community, and Canada is the envy of many a country because of their unfailing dedication and expertise.

As well as the debate on the previously mentioned topics, there was an informal meeting on the health and well-being of the elderly chaired by Congressman Claude Pepper of the United States. I might add that Congressman Pepper was celebrating 50 years of membership in the IPU, having attended his first conference in 1938. "Long-term health care" was the subject discussed at this meeting on the elderly.

I wish to pay special tribute to the outstanding contribution of our colleague, Senator Thériault, himself a former provincial health minister. He delivered a moving and passionate speech about how Canada has provided long-term health care for its aging citizens. Delegates from many parts of the world remarked on his valuable contribution.

● (1540)

As you know, our Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Joe Clark, announced last November that the Canadian government had decided to restore bilateral aid to Guatemala. In order to see at first hand how Canadian money is being spent, our delegation arranged to visit two aid projects. The first project sponsored by Plenty Canada involved the introduction of soya beans—which are high in protein—into the diet of Guatemalans. The second was a food and health assistance program for widows and orphans of villagers killed in guerilla fighting.

The statutes of the Inter-Parliamentary Union state that its purpose is to promote personal contacts between members of all parliaments; to unite them in common action to establish and develop representative institutions; and to advance the work of international peace and development. Honourable senators, I feel that our report will demonstrate how this purpose is being met.

Hon. Senators: Hear, hear!

The Hon. the Speaker *pro tempore*: If no other honourable senator wishes to speak, this inquiry is considered debated.

The Senate adjourned until Tuesday, May 31, 1988, at 2 p.m.