

*Military Equipment Export Restrictions*

Columbia to St. John's, Newfoundland, the motion presently before the House does not pass judgment on the existing guidelines. I want to make that perfectly clear. It simply calls for the opportunity for Members of the House of Commons to scrutinize these guidelines in public, with input from concerned Canadian citizens. It is time that the veil of secrecy was lifted from this very important public policy.

**Hon. Donald J. Johnston (Saint-Henri—Westmount):** Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the intervention and thrust of the motion of my friend, the Hon. Member for Kamloops—Shuswap (Mr. Riis), of the New Democratic Party. I think that he is perhaps being a trifle generous in his motion. In other words, I do not think that his motion goes quite far enough. I certainly support it. I have no objection to it. In fact, I would welcome a review of existing policy. I think we know from experience, and the evidence is before us, that the existing policy does not go far enough and that any such inquiry should address those measures which should be taken to strengthen the guidelines.

[Translation]

But as I just said we will certainly endorse the thrust of the motion introduced by my friend and colleague, but I am convinced, Mr. Speaker, that we must go much further.

• (1710)

[English]

The Member who proposes this motion, the Hon. Member for Kamloops—Shuswap (Mr. Riis), has pointed out that access to information is also a major consideration. We agree with that. I would like to refer the House and my colleagues to an emergency resolution—

[Translation]

—what is called a resolution of exception which I introduced during our Liberal convention, our political convention in November. Because we identified the problem with controls and considering last year's experience with respect to the export of helicopter engines to some locations in the Middle East, Iran in this case, we moved the following resolution:

WHEREAS recent developments have shown that the present Government policy does not prevent the sale of military equipment, designed for either military or civilian use, to belligerent nations such as Iran and Iraq;

WHEREAS the Liberal Party of Canada strongly supports a pacific settlement of the Iran-Iraq conflict; and

WHEREAS Amnesty International reports persistent and serious violations of human rights in both Iran and Iraq;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada adopt an export control policy covering military equipment, or equipment which can be used for both civilian and military purposes, and respecting the following principles:

- (a) stricter requirements concerning final destination and use;
- (b) public access to information concerning this kind of transactions.

[English]

In other words, in the resolution which was presented on behalf of the Liberal caucus to a policy convention which, incidentally, was adopted, we resolved that we should adopt an

export control policy for military equipment and for products that have both a civilian and a military application. It would include those two principles which I just cited a moment ago in French, namely, that end-use certificate requirements be strengthened and that information on this category of transaction be accessible.

This resolution was proposed in the aftermath of the export from Canada last year of engines for helicopters. It was pointed out by the helicopter manufacturer, and in this regard I would like to cite an article from *The Globe and Mail* of November 18, that:

—an employee of Bell Helicopters Textron Inc., the firm that makes the Bell 212, said that the PT-6T twinpack engines can also be used in Bell's UH-1N helicopters, which are military helicopter gunships.

That revelation underlined the importance of strengthening these export controls so that we can bring into the basket of prohibited exports that type of equipment which, indeed, serves both military and civilian purposes. It is not enough to concentrate only on the military aspect of these transactions—for the very obvious reason, as we have seen here, that many of these items can also be used for civilian purposes. They can be disguised as civilian shipments and subsequently be used for military purposes.

I would also add that the resolution which we proposed picked up on the other point, the notion of the end-use certificate. This is a point which was referred to by my colleague. It refers to the export of, say, helicopter engines, which I suppose is a perfect example, to a country which is not engaged in warfare, which is not involved in human rights violations and, hence, for which an export certificate is no problem. In turn, that country can incorporate the Canadian-manufactured product into another product such as equipment mounted on a helicopter or some other type of aircraft which will find military application in a third country.

I recognize that these are difficult questions. However, it behooves us in this House, and it behooves the Government, to address this issue in order to correct the very obvious defects which we now see in these export control regulations. Apropos that, I note that in committee last January 21 my colleague, the Hon. Member for Winnipeg—Fort Garry (Mr. Axworthy), picked up on these very same points. He asked the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Clark) whether the Government was contemplating changes to its export arms policy and the regulations which guide their use. My colleague pointed out in his question that, indeed, we find military and non-military uses for the same equipment. We see that a third country can incorporate products made in Canada and then subsequently export them into an area which is a combat area such as Iran, Iraq, and so on.

The Hon. Member for Winnipeg—Fort Garry also raised the issue of an international arms registry. The Secretary of State for External Affairs did not enlighten us with respect to what steps the Government has in mind, although I am confident that he, too, must be concerned about the export of Canadian products which find military application in theatres