

External Affairs

members of EFTA are accepted into membership in the EEC?

The second matter which the minister has dealt with has to do with the NATO ministers' meeting in Brussels. Certainly no one will disagree with him when he talks about the sterile confrontation that has characterized east-west relationships, but I think there will be considerable disappointment when the minister tells us that the ministers' conference in Brussels threw cold water on the holding in the near future of a European security conference. The minister said:

There was virtually unanimous agreement that the progress to date was insufficient, largely because no satisfactory arrangement for Berlin has yet been reached.

Certainly, there can be no doubt about the fact that the situation in Berlin is fundamental and that it is the key to some type of rapprochement in Europe. But surely this is part of a great many other tensions, and nothing could be lost by a European security conference at which Berlin and many other questions could be dealt with. Chancellor Willie Brandt of Germany is making valiant attempts to establish a détente with Poland, Czechoslovakia and the Soviet Union. It seems to me that this is the opportune time for a European conference in an attempt to bring the east-west confrontation to an end, or at least to ameliorate it to a very considerable extent.

• (2:30 p.m.)

The minister makes reference to the discussions on mutual and balanced force reductions as proposed by the Warsaw Pact countries. Again there is no explicit commitment to holding a conference on this matter. It seems to me that there has been a good deal of foot dragging, and the longer this is delayed the longer the tremendous burden of military commitments will fall upon the nations of the world. A world that is spending \$200 billion a year on military commitments is a world that is not able to devote its resources to the needs of people.

May I say finally, Mr. Speaker, that the minister made no mention of any discussions with respect to Portugal. If the newspapers are correct the minister, along with the representatives from Norway and Denmark, took some exception to holding the next NATO ministers conference in Lisbon. If that is correct I want to commend him for it, but I would have hoped that the minister would raise the much more fundamental question of whether or not Portugal, which a task force of the United Nations has found to be guilty of using its military forces to commit acts of aggression against a free and independent country, ought to continue to be a member of an alliance which is supposedly dedicated to stopping aggression and preserving the democratic way of life.

I think the minister would have also helped a great deal if he had told the House what position Canada took with respect to continuing Greece's membership in NATO, a country which has now abolished almost all the democratic institutions upon which a free country depends. An hon. member says that we may not have many members left in the alliance. Mr. Speaker, the alliance was formed of free nations dedicated to the

[Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands).]

preservation of freedom. You cannot preserve freedom by destroying it in your own backyard.

[Translation]

Mr. René Matte (Champlain): Mr. Speaker, as is often the case, we regret that the minister's statement was provided at the last minute and, moreover, exclusively in English.

The apologies we got today are part of a practice which has been going on for years of considering as secondary the contribution of the French-speaking population. It is too easy to always apologize. When will the necessary measures be taken to instate real linguistic equality in this government administration?

To come back to the minister's statement, Mr. Speaker, we consider that any effort by Canada to promote international trade obviously deserves our support. However, we must point out that our country never suggests any innovation or takes initiatives in international organizations. This is perhaps due to the fact that we do not really make the necessary efforts to be truly original in the fields of trade and economy and as the Créditistes have been saying for a long time if Canada took some steps to establish the special kind of economy which they advocate, it would be sufficient to impress international opinion. We could perhaps succeed in establishing real exchanges which would give rise to more prosperity not only in Canada, but also in other countries.

The difficulties experienced in that field—as far as the Common Market is concerned for instance—would be lessened, if we would carry out a policy meant to put the economy at the service of all citizens, as it should be. Thus we would in a much more realistic way promote brotherhood throughout the world.

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[English]

GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATION ACT, 1970

PROVISIONS RESPECTING DEPARTMENTAL REORGANIZATION, MINISTRIES OF STATE, PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARIES, ETC.

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister) moved for leave to introduce Bill C-207, respecting the organization of the Government of Canada and matters related or incidental thereto.

Motion agreed to, bill read the first time and ordered to be printed.

Mr. MacEachen: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order that might assist the Table in the disposition of this bill. It has been agreed that the government organization bill to which we have given first reading be dealt with at the committee stage in the Committee of the Whole.

Mr. Speaker: Is this agreed?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Speaker: It is so ordered.