

breach of international law and the general persistent abuse of human rights by ARENA and the continued American military aid to that regime in El Salvador. If the government asks us to adopt this bill, it must come before this House and indicate what steps it is taking to ensure that the international law it is here asking us to endorse is being complied with at all levels internationally.

Let me speak of another area in which international law is suffering and that is in East Timor. The United Nations charter recognizes the right of people to self-determination which I may say makes it part of international law and the body of international law. The Canadian government has again, from what I hear, completely refused to state as clearly as it must the right of self-determination in East Timor. East Timor has been occupied by the Indonesian government since the late 1970s. Canada has accepted that occupation and continues to assist the Indonesians in removing that issue from the international human rights agenda.

It is a matter of deep shame to Canadians that the government has been complicitous in this matter. At least a third of the East Timor population has been massacred under the regime that has taken over their country and denied them the rights guaranteed them under the UN Charter.

I recently received in the mail correspondence from a group of parliamentarians in East Timor. A number of members of this House are participating in that. Let me indicate to the House the affirmation of the parliamentarians for East Timor, led by Lord Avery of Britain:

Parliamentarians from East Timor affirm that the negotiations in respect of East Timor will not lead to a just settlement unless

- 1) they involve representatives of East Timorese people including those who resist the present occupation,
- 2) secure an end to hostilities which prevent the people of East Timor and their representatives from contributing freely to negotiations leading to self-determination,
- 3) provide internationally acceptable conditions of access to relief and development agencies and independent visitors, journalists and diplomats, and
- 4) include an act of self-determination which is free from interference and verified by international observers acceptable to the East Timorese people.

Government Orders

The parliamentarians commend all international initiatives which observe these principles and call upon governments to support actively a process of negotiation conducted on such terms.

I for one would call on the government to do that. I know there are members of all parties who share in this cause. I think it is an important one that we should record in the record of Parliament as this bill proceeds toward its final approval.

Let me refer to some other areas that are of concern such as Romania and the effect of the Canadian sale to Romania of Candu reactors and the new nuclear proliferation.

We have seen this week in Ottawa the Open Skies Conference and the continued movement toward some rationality in the area of arms control and disarmament. There is an improved atmosphere under which all sides will begin to negotiate a reduction of arms and a movement toward a new concept of security. That security will not come from more arms but from less arms.

It must be clear to all Canadians that the proliferation of nuclear arms and a capacity for the military use of nuclear power is in itself a breach of international law because of the risks which that impose, not just to innocent populations but to the future of the planet.

Any government that is complicitous in the expansion and development and the potential threat of nuclear destruction to whole populations may well stand in the court of history convicted of a breach of principle of international law. We have seen from Chernobyl the terrible impact of nuclear disaster, even when nuclear power is used peacefully.

This government continues to contribute toward the development of a Candu reactor in Romania. We have seen what has happened there in terms of labour standards. This government apparently stood by quietly when forced labour was being used in the construction of the Candu site there. The House will want to consider as well a series of themes as it proceeds toward the final approval of this bill. While I urge the House to adopt the bill, I would ask members to take a moment to understand the critical role that Canada has in the development of a true body of international law.