

## NATO

The second point I want to argue is that Canada should insist on a reassessment of NATO's role in world affairs. NATO has become solely a military alliance. From time to time gestures are made in the direction of Article II dealing with economic programs, but nothing is done. We have allowed NATO to be permeated almost exclusively by military thinking. The time has come to reassess its political role in bringing about a détente and military disengagement in Europe.

I suggest as far as NATO is concerned that we have developed a Maginot line complex. We have reached a stalemate in which the only solution is to pile up more arms and more military forces or to find some way out of the dilemma. It takes one back to the pre-1914 days when the triple entente and triple alliance faced each other in Europe, each building bigger and better battleships and each recruiting larger armies, always with the assurance to the public that the construction of more arms was the best guarantee that the arms would never be used. This is exactly what we are doing today. Our thinking has been completely dominated by those who are interested in preserving the kind of stalemate that provides jobs for generals and contracts for military armament manufacturers.

In the New Democratic party at our successive conventions we have supported retaining our membership in NATO in the hope that Canada might be able to exercise sufficient influence so that NATO would be used as the political vehicle by which a rapprochement might be affected between east and west in Europe. I want to say, Mr. Speaker, that I personally am becoming increasingly sceptical about the ability of NATO to fulfil this role. Recently they have turned a cold shoulder on the proposal for a conference made by the Warsaw Pact Countries at their meeting in Budapest last month. In answer to a question from my colleague, the hon. member for Selkirk (Mr. Schreyer), the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Sharp) said on Monday that the NATO powers had not really turned it down. The fact is, if one reads the record that, Pietro Nenni of Italy and Willy Brandt of Germany were sympathetic to it.

**Mr. Sharp:** They were at the meeting and concurred.

**Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands):** Exactly. They were sympathetic to the idea of a conference.

**Mr. Sharp:** So were we.

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

**Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands):** Others were not. We have yet to hear whether Canada was sympathetic or not. Let me point out what Canada agreed to and what was finally issued as part of the communiqué. They resolved:

—to explore with the Soviet Union and the other countries of Eastern Europe which concrete issues best lend themselves to fruitful negotiation and an early resolution.

If that is not turning the cold shoulder on a forthright offer to hold a conference between the Warsaw Pact and NATO nations, I don't know what it is. Some will argue that the Warsaw Pact nations are just bluffing and are not sincere. That may be true, but the only way we will find out will be by going to the conference table. One has the strong suspicion that there are those who are not at all keen about going to the conference table. We will make no progress toward a settlement in Europe if we continue to accept the concept that the "enemy" must always be opposed and ignored because an ultimate military confrontation is inevitable. In my opinion, if we cannot get a reassessment by NATO of its role in the world, then I think Canada has to reconsider seriously whether its membership in NATO fulfils any useful purpose.

I believe NATO has lost sight of its basic political objectives, among which is a commitment by each signatory to strengthen and safeguard its democratic institutions. Has Greece been safeguarding its democratic institutions? Has Portugal, waging a colonial war in Angola, been safeguarding and strengthening democratic institutions? The council of ministers has been silent on this question. Our Secretary of State for External Affairs has been silent on this question. I believe the time has come when Canada must say to the NATO council of minister that if countries like Greece and Portugal are going to continue their policy of repressing democracy and freedom and are in NATO, we are out.

The third proposition I want to argue is that Canada should place its major emphasis on promoting and strengthening those international organizations and agencies most likely to foster world peace and security. Of course we must be concerned about our defence, but this must be part of our defence program and strategy. One has the uncomfortable feeling when the Prime Minister talks about Canada's defence that it is increasingly being integrated into the defence program of the United States, that we are