

*Special Debate*

November 1991 is over 300,000 and an estimated two million more lives are presently threatened.

The Somali crisis emphasizes the convergence of actions—on the humanitarian, political and military level—required to bring about reconciliation and to restore power and authority. You will remember that, following negotiations with the clan leaders last September, the United Nations had decided to deploy troops to increase the protection provided for the unloading and storage of emergency supplies as well as the protection of convoys in and around Mogadishu.

In response to the call from the United Nations, a Canadian airlift operation was undertaken at that time. Three cargo aircraft support the emergency relief effort under the auspices of the World Food Program and the International Committee of the Red Cross. The airlift is between Nairobi, in Kenya, and the southern part of Somalia.

In spite of all the humanitarian and diplomatic efforts on the part of the international community, the situation is still deteriorating, aggravated by numerous confrontations between the various opposing factions.

Just last weekend there were reports in the papers of this state of chronic instability jeopardising the food relief efforts in Somalia. Humanitarian organizations on location attempted a last-ditch on Saturday to ship 400 tonnes of supplies stored in the port of Mogadishu since the beginning of November out to the northern part of the capital under the terms of an agreement between the factions controlling the two sectors. For the first time in three weeks, the convoy was able to leave the port, but attacks on storage facilities in the provinces are now on the rise. There are over 40 more trucks loaded with supplies waiting to leave the port of Mogadishu for the northern part of the region.

[*English*]

The situation has become so volatile that firm intervention by multinational forces has become unavoidable, although the immediate risk of such an operation temporarily interrupting various efforts does concern us very much.

We hope that this intervention will be as brief as possible and that it will meet with co-operation on the part of forces now on the ground. Only the establish-

ment of civil authority will allow us to bring an end to this intervention.

Traditional diplomatic relations do not work in Somalia right now precisely because no civilian or governmental authority structures now exist in Somalia. Humanitarian intervention by stronger nations has therefore become more justifiable because the chances of negotiating order and a political solution are very slight given that the disputing factions have no real identifiable political objectives.

It is essential that the process of reconciliation be set in motion and that civil authority be established. Leaders of other countries in the region have a crucial role to play and I think that we should applaud the initiatives of the Government of Ethiopia to encourage reconciliation in Somalia.

• (2020)

Political instability, drought and civil war remain the principal obstacle to development in the Horn of Africa and they are behind this enormous demand for international humanitarian assistance. Over the last three years Canada has provided to the countries of the Horn of Africa food aid and humanitarian assistance worth some \$200 million. It is in Ethiopia and Sudan that the need for emergency aid had been greatest.

[*Translation*]

To manage a durable solution to the chronic crisis raging in the Horn of Africa, it will be necessary to deal simultaneously with the problems caused by heavily armed and militarized societies, massive population movements, ethnic conflict, collapsed economies and environmental destruction caused by human factors.

Mr. Speaker, I would appreciate it if I could go on for another two minutes. I don't know whether the hon. member for Rosedale would let me finish.

**Mr. MacDonald (Rosedale):** That's fine.

**Mrs. Duplessis:** The countries in the Horn of Africa must set up governmental structures that are resolutely focused on peace, security and development. In Somalia, however, it is wishful thinking to even consider that a national government could emerge from the current chaos without outside help. It is equally Utopian to imagine, especially considering the current state of the world economy, that the international community could continue to provide humanitarian aid indefinitely,