

Government Orders

In 1974, saying they were protecting the Turkish minority, Turkey invaded the island. Since that time, the island has been divided. There is a green line or a wall across the island to separate the Greeks from the Turks.

For almost 26 years, Canadians have been on the island as part of the United Nations forces to help keep the peace. Canada has had 29 of its soldiers killed in that time. It is costing Canadian taxpayers about \$30 million a year to have that force on the island.

When we are discussing the motion put forward today by my hon. friend, it is very important that we look at that particular part of the world, for the particular reason that, as the European and North American nations are getting together to discuss peace, that island is part of Europe and yet nobody gets up to speak about it.

We have one country which is involved in Cyprus which wants to be part of the European Economic Community. Turkey wants to join the EEC, and yet, they are saying that they are on that island to protect the Turkish Cypriots from their aggressor. I am asking, Mr. Speaker, who is the aggressor? Certainly not the Greek Cypriots.

Yet this particular part of the world has been forgotten. Why is it forgotten? Is it because of its role within the Middle East? Is it because it is the last foothold of the western nations overlooking all of the Middle East, right up to Pakistan, because, Mr. Speaker, besides Israel, that is the only place the western world has a foothold overlooking its activities in the Moslem world.

In Nicosia there are two embassies built right across the street from each other. They are the United States embassy and the Russian embassy. I had the opportunity to visit there and these are the biggest embassies that these two countries have all over the world. How many citizens of the United States are on the island of Cyprus, 1,000, 2,000, 3,000? Do they need one of their biggest embassies to serve them?

How many Russians are living in Cyprus? I could count the number on the fingers of my hands, and yet these two embassies are right across the street from each

other. Why? Is it because of espionage in this day and age, when we talk about detente or when we talk about peace in the world? I wonder why those two countries are spending millions on that small island?

Do the superpowers want that island to remain divided? Do they want the status quo? One wonders, Mr. Speaker, why it is that in the past 25 years no solution has been found for that particular part of the world.

When members of the government go to this conference, they should bring these facts forward. Then all of the European nations can sit and discuss that little island of Cyprus. It is the last part of Europe that still faces some form of aggression and instability.

The walls of Berlin have come down. We have witnessed over the past year and a half how eastern Europe is starting to become more of a democracy. We witnessed in 1989 the Tiananmen Square massacre, how the people stood up and said no more to the regimes of the east.

Yet, Mr. Speaker, we have a beautiful island right in the middle of the Mediterranean with one side saying, "I want to have demilitarization", while the other side is saying, "I am here protecting my people". I wonder who those people are? We have seen successive members of parliament, successive governments of the island try to settle this particular matter.

Mr. Speaker, I know that my time is running out but it is such an important issue. I hope when our leaders go to this conference, they will take this to heart. When our leaders sit there, they will actually discuss the problem of Cyprus because the people of Canada and the people all over the world cannot see this beautiful island divided and invaded by 30,000 soldiers.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): In view of the fact that there are no more speakers, shall I suspend the sitting until two o'clock?

There being no further members rising on debate, pursuant to an order made on Wednesday, November 7, the debate is deemed to have adjourned and sitting is suspended until two o'clock.

At 1.40 the House took recess.