

issue is one between the Soviet Union and the rest of the world and, indeed, all humanity.

Almost the final straw, as mentioned by the Hon. Member for York-Peel (Mr. Stevens) as well, came when listening to the television address of the Soviet Chief of Staff, Nikolai Ogarov, about two evenings ago. I will just read into the record two of the questions and answers that we heard on that evening. The question to the Soviet Chief of Staff was:

Would it have made a difference if there were more than 2,000 instead of more than 200 people aboard, or would that have been justified in defence of the borders of the Soviet Union?

Marshal Ogarov replied:

I suggest that this is just a hypothetical question having no relevance—

Then a little later on, the question was asked:

If the Soviet Union bears no guilt in this affair as you have said today, why have you not yet told your own people that 269 people died?

Ogarov: How would we know how many people were on board on the plane? So to report to the Soviet people the number of persons aboard is simply illogical.

By that very statement, Mr. Speaker, the Soviet Chief of Staff did concede what the Soviet Union has up until now, and even today, refused to concede, and that is, that it knew that there were civilians on board.

It is not good enough to say, "Well, they may have been provoked." There may indeed have been some provocation, but one does not shoot down an unarmed civilian aircraft. As I say, there is, I think, no disagreement in the House and no disagreement in the Houses of Assembly of most countries of the world to the absolute basic fact that one does not shoot down an unarmed civilian aircraft or whether one thinks there was espionage or whatever.

I recall very vividly that when Israel brought down an airliner, the Soviet Union was very critical, very critical indeed, as we all were. So it has become almost unbelievable that we should have to come here tonight and bring the message to a country, which is a great power in the world and which surely must realize by now that there is absolutely no justification for its act.

Now the final straw is that we have heard that the request to the Security Council of the United Nations that the Secretary General be authorized to conduct a full investigation has been vetoed by the Soviet Union and probably, I understand, by Poland as well. Some people might have said, "Oh, well, there may be other countries, maybe the United States, maybe other countries, that would not want a full investigation known." I have heard some people say that. Well, that is now out the window. Of those who might have said that, the Soviet Union is the only major power, the nation involved in this tragedy, and it vetoes a request to have the Secretary General conduct an investigation.

I hope, Mr. Speaker, that it may be possible for us now to go forward to the General Assembly, and indeed I hope it would be possible to have a special session of the General Assembly

War II and perhaps to the Korean War. Nations were behaving in a belligerent manner. The tendency was to shoot first and ask questions later. The difference with this event, and I think it is a fair comparison, is that the free world has responded in a unanimous way.

The Soviet leadership must be convinced that the people of this country and every other country in this world, including the people of the Soviet Union, must feel safe when flying on commercial aircraft. All countries must understand that every citizen in this world, whatever political philosophy motivates his government, must not be perceived by his respective government as a pawn to be moved on the geopolitical chessboard in the world today.

As still a relatively new Member of this House, I am pleased that despite the political differences of the Parties of this House and despite some of the heated exchanges and differences of view that we have had among Members, we can express to a leadership and political force that was formed out of crisis after World War II that we shall continue to say that we will not respond to rhetoric with rhetoric, but to say with common sense and a sense of brotherhood among men of all nations of the world that this kind of bloodshed will always firmly and immediately be condemned by free men everywhere.

Miss Pauline Jewett (New Westminster-Coquitlam): Mr. Speaker, as the Leader of the New Democratic Party said in introducing this motion for an emergency debate today, nothing, no national security interest, no fear of espionage, no defence of borders can excuse such an act as that committed by the Soviet Union on Korean Airlines flight 007.

Since first learning of the attack, we have been appalled by Soviet actions and reactions; not the actions and reactions that one would expect of what we had thought to be a leading power in the world. At the very beginning there was a screen of silence, total silence on the Korean air carrier having been shot down. Indeed, on September 2, in my first response to the Soviet silence I condemned it and condemned them, as did the Secretary of State for External Relations (Mr. Pepin). I said there should immediately be an emergency meeting of the United Nations Security Council, that Canada should play a major role in pressing the issue forward, that the Council should authorize the United Nations Secretary-General to conduct a full inquiry of the matter and, failing that, a general meeting of the General Assembly should be called. That was a statement I made on behalf of my Party on September 2.

● (2220)

When the Soviet Union continued to be silent and made no effort whatsoever to take any responsibility for this immoral act, as the Leader of my Party described it both on September 6 in his press release and again today, all of us in this House, I think, continue to be shocked by such an aggressive and violent act and by the attitude of the Soviet Union, not just toward the United States or toward any single nation, because this is not a matter between the United States and the Soviet Union, but by its total silence with regard to the rest of the world. This