

*Government Orders*

eighty and within the spirit of the CSCE is the maintenance of national sovereignty throughout the process.

As I have said, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe involves a broader group of European Nations. The question becomes, how do we create a parliamentary assembly that can join in a more direct way with CSCE and participate in that broader process, especially in the light of the developing democracies and the emergence of parliaments and parliamentarians from those developing democracies in eastern Europe.

This brings me specifically to the words in the text of the motion before us because that motion encourages the establishment of a parliamentary assembly as an adjunct to the CSCE.

I had occasion very recently to attend the Interparliamentary Union meeting in Uruguay. This very matter was discussed among the European group to which Canada and the United States of America are also parties because we follow the tradition of the CSCE in making that Pan-European connection with North America. Some of the European parliamentarians felt that there should be an expansion of the Parliamentary Assembly and of the Council of Europe to include the new democracies and make it a Pan-European organization. That would not really be in the interests of Canada and Canadian parliamentarians because we would not be in any way directly involved in that kind of organization.

The CSCE from its very origin has involved Canada and the United States of America and has taken a broader outlook on the coverage of the organization. We are already very much involved in this organization, so I think the development of a parliamentary assembly as an adjunct to the CSCE is very much in Canadian interests. It ought to be encouraged and fostered by Canadian parliamentarians.

There is already in process a number of elements that will lead to the consideration of parliamentary assemblies in connection with the developing democracies in Europe and their linkage with their established democracies already involved in the European Community and the Council of Europe.

In July, 1991 in Vienna, there will be the Seventh Interparliamentary Conference on European Co-operation and Security. This is a conference that emanates from the member groups within the interparliamentary union which is the broad based international organization for parliaments. As part of its deliberations, this conference will consider the very matter of a new European Assembly of Parliaments with a European base. It will also consider if this Assembly of Parliaments should be extended to North America, particularly to Canada and the United States of America. It will be essential that Canada participates in that conference and makes the case, which we have already made through our representatives of the House of Commons at the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, that Canada has a place and a role, and ought to be included in the parliamentary assembly.

• (1250)

Why do we participate in these kinds of organizations? It is simply to foster the thought and considerations that are very much a part of the CSCE and very much a part of the Helsinki final act which is the basis of the CSCE. We believe, as the member nations in the CSCE process believe, that sovereign equality has to be respected; that territorial boundaries have to be inviolable; that there can be no intervention in the internal affairs of other states; that we must have peaceful settlement of international disputes; and, above all, that there must be respect for human rights in all nations of the world.

These are the principles that bind together the nations that participate in the CSCE process. These are the principles that bind democratic parliamentarians together, and these are the principles that we want to foster, not in this country, but around the world. As every nation of the world observes these principles, we can be assured that that will be the basis for peace and security.

I do not for one minute believe that we can abandon our obligations to NATO and the North Atlantic Assembly. I think that those activities should continue and be enhanced. We have demonstrated through the peace efforts of the past half century that deterrents are necessary. There will always be somebody—and we see this in the Middle East today—who will take advantage of those who cannot defend themselves in a physical way. It is true of people. It is true of nations. We will not, and we cannot, abandon that aspect in our search for peace and security.