

*Government Orders*

their impact on civil wars in Latin America. It is important that this government make it very clear to the American government that we expect the American government to continue to comply with the protocols and to insist that clients of the American government comply with the protocols.

I have to say that as we look at the protocols, it raises the question of the extent to which Canada has insisted upon compliance by other states with international conventions. It is not enough to adopt law. It is not enough to adopt conventions. It is not enough to adopt these protocols, but we must insist that the protocols, the conventions and the law be complied with.

One of the great difficulties at the international level in developing a body of international law is the enforcement of international law. There is no equivalent of a national or local police force as we have in our communities that has the responsibility to intervene when there is a perception that the law has been broken and to ensure that the law breakers are brought to justice. There is no equivalent of a comprehensive court system that has the power to sanction illegal conduct and to impose sanctions on those who were found to be in breach of the law.

Internationally we are at a very primitive stage in enforcement of compliance with international law. The only way at this stage that we can begin moving from the primitive level to a more sophisticated level is through governments insisting with other governments that the law be complied with; that the diplomacy, if I can use the term in the used classic sense, be used to encourage an instinctive compliance with the law and that the international community act to impose sanctions when there has been a breach of international law. In that regard I point to the most recent vivid example of a clear breach of international law by the actions of the American government in Panama. Even this week we hear the President of the United States purporting to justify the American intervention in Panama, a clear breach of international law, by saying to the Soviets: "Come and look at what is going on in Panama. The people of Panama accept what we have done". That is simply western American, Texas-style justice which has no place any longer in the international community.

• (1040)

The consequences of a breach or a breakdown of international law now are so serious for humanity that we cannot accept that approach to the justification for a breakdown or a breach of international law. The United States government clearly broke international law when it sent its forces into Panama. It is simply not good enough to justify that on the basis that the population presently is pleased with the result.

First, we have had no clear statement by the people of Panama that that is what they wish to have happen. Second, there is no evidence that the armed intervention by the United States was the only route to achieve the desired result. Third, there was no consultation through the proper international channels to justify or attempt to develop any international law justification for the unilateral action of the United States.

In that context it becomes critically important for the Canadian Government, instead of saying ready aye ready to the Americans, to say to them very clearly that we expect the American government to comply with international law if we are to have any level of civility in international arrangements and if we expect to have the necessary moral authority in future to enforce the very protocols that we are here asking this House to adopt.

If these protocols are to have meaning they must be enforceable. If they are to be enforceable, the leading powers in the world must be prepared to commit themselves to comply with international law; not just to say we will comply only when it does not matter to us, but to comply when in fact it does matter. That must be the principle that this country stands for in the international arena.

There are other examples that this country must have of grave concern with the level at which international law is being complied with even by those we say are our friends. In El Salvador, for example, ARENA recently prevented the evacuation of FMLN soldiers who needed medical aid, in direct contravention of the very protocols that we are here asking this Parliament to adopt.

I have not heard the Canadian government say anything about that. The Canadian government, as far as I know, has been silent about that action on the part of ARENA. As far as I know, the government has not taken up with the Americans who have a very significant and powerful influence in El Salvador that particular