

The Address—Mr. Mulroney

Mr. Speaker, that this is a tribute, not only to the Minister, but to his record of service to Canada in times of war as well.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Mulroney: All widows and widowers aged 60 to 64 are now eligible to receive spouses allowance benefits. A program of older worker adjustment is being negotiated with the provinces. Those are a few items in regard to our commitment to social justice and a more caring society.

The fourth pillar, which is no less important given the value traditions of Canada, involved our commitment to constructive internationalism wherein we undertook to conduct Canadian foreign policy with respect for our valued traditions. The traditions of other Prime Ministers and other Secretaries of State for External Affairs who have served Canada have profiled the kind of nation that we are and we have tried to enhance that around the world.

For example, in the area of African relief in which the Secretary of State for External Affairs led in Canada and in the west with commitments that galvanized support—with the help of the media and others it is true, and I am honoured to say that—the response of Canada was tremendous. That is a salute and tribute to the leadership of the Secretary of State for External Affairs and that of Ambassador Lewis at the U.N. in the special U.N. session on Africa.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Mulroney: We have strengthened our NATO contribution in Europe. We have accepted new peace-keeping responsibilities in the Sinai. We finally gained admission for Canada into the G-7 at Tokyo. Afterwards a famous Harvard professor observed in his *Toronto Star* column that "Canada won an important economic victory". He added that "establishing the G-7—may be the most constructive international economic development since Breton Woods in 1944". I want to thank Tom Axworthy for that.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Mulroney: In the family it was always known that Tom was a man of discernment and judgment. Spend more time with the kid. It will do you good.

On the question of leadership on South Africa, from Nassau to London, Canada played a vigorous and constructive role. Canada picked up from the leadership provided by the Right Hon. John Diefenbaker. We have continued to wage a struggle against the evil of apartheid. We have waged a struggle on behalf of all Canadians against racism, against the concept that if you are black you are inferior. This is fundamentally unacceptable to Canada and to Canadians and we shall persevere.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Mulroney: Our position, as set out by the Secretary of State for External Affairs here and at the United Nations, in

London, in Nassau and around the world, is that we will be persuasive, principled, and victorious. This country never has and never shall accept the notion that an evil, rooted in a political concept, gains any legitimacy with the passage of time. On the contrary, we take the view that non-white South Africans have been abused for decades. This abuse and this corruption of the word "democracy" must come to an end, and Canada stands with all those who want to bring it to an urgent end.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

[*Translation*]

Mr. Mulroney: We want to play a more important role in international affairs. As we did in my view concerning the *Francophonie*, after developing with the Governments of Quebec and New-Brunswick and others a formula for allowing that major French component of our Canadian personality to finally express itself on the occasion of the first Summit of the *Francophonie*. We want to play a larger role in international affairs, but a role that is realistic, related to this country's rank in the world. We want to strengthen our links with international bodies in which in my view we play a significant role—the Commonwealth of Nations, the United Nations, to pursue the fight against apartheid. And within the *Francophonie*, we want to go on exercising our vital French-speaking dimension—in NATO, to honour our defence commitments, and in the OECD and the Economic Summit, to behave as loyal partners and to win acceptance for freer trade.

[*English*]

In the U.N.'s first committee on arms control a resolution of the importance of verification of disarmament agreements was adopted for the first time ever. It was a Canadian resolution. This month Canada will host an international symposium on improving techniques for verification of nuclear tests. The meetings which the Secretary of State for External Affairs has held around the world, the meetings which I have been privileged to attend with President Reagan, NATO leaders and Secretary Gorbachev, have been committed to the proposition that the greatest goal of this Parliament and any parliament in any jurisdiction must be the procurement of a durable peace. Our children and the children of the world insist that parliamentarians come up with nothing less.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Mulroney: That is a brief summary of the record of a lot of hard work and a lot of effort for two years. It is not perfect. The facts are there and the Canadian people will judge. They will make their value judgments on how hard we have worked, how well we have tried and if we have succeeded. That is what it is all about.

In the next two, two and a half, three, four, five or six years, we will continue our work. Some urgent matters attract our attention absolutely immediately. For example, the problems affecting Canadian agriculture. I believe that no Government in recent history has been as sensitive to the needs of Canadian