

*Adjournment Debate*

I liked the headline I saw in one of the Ottawa newspapers today which read: "Trained to fight, sent for peace". That is true. We train our troops how to be fighters. What do we do with them? We send them to be peacekeepers.

We have to rethink the whole training program for our army. We have to start training them as peacekeepers now. That is why they are so respected even now, because they are peacekeepers. They have self-discipline. They know how to negotiate. But we are sending them into a much more dangerous environment and many of our troops are going to come back with very deep psychological problems, with very deep psychiatric problems, unless we address the situation and address it seriously.

I hope the parliamentary secretary will have some answers for us.

**Mrs. Monique B. Tardif (Parliamentary Secretary to Solicitor General of Canada):** Mr. Speaker, I was quite surprised to hear that the mandate is not clear. I think the mandate is quite clear. The over-all mandate which stems from UNSC Resolution 819 is to increase the presence of UNPROFOR with a view to monitoring the humanitarian situation in the safe area agreed to by the parties.

Demilitarization of Srebrenica was a step agreed to by the parties, not one proposed by the UN. In order to save some lives, UNPROFOR is helping both parties fulfil commitments made to each other.

Their task includes receiving weapons from the defenders of Srebrenica for the purpose of demonstrating to the attackers that they have no reason to attack. Their task also includes patrolling the safe area and establishing observation posts as a confidence building measure for the parties.

Another problem my colleague raised was the rules of self-defence which are equally clear. Should Canadian peacekeepers be attacked, they would fire back in self-defence. This is to say that they would use force if armed elements attempted by force to intrude into the demilitarized area.

Some 200 peacekeepers cannot be expected to resist a full scale attack. Should this occur, they would take shelter and other measures for their self-protection like everyone else and, as necessary, redeploy.

It should be remembered that the Canadian forces were deployed to Srebrenica in the context of an agreement and that UNSC Resolution 819 called on all parties to treat Srebrenica as a safe area.

Another point raised was training and equipment. The Government of Canada simply would not send a poorly trained and improperly equipped contingent on any mission.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois):** I am sorry, but the hon. member's time has expired.

## THE MONTREAL ECONOMY

**Hon. Warren Allmand (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce):** Mr. Speaker, on March 22 I asked the Minister of Finance and the Prime Minister to consider some new action to stimulate the Montreal economy and in particular to approve the municipal infrastructure program proposed by the Canadian Federation of Municipalities. This would be a tripartite program supported by the federal, provincial and municipal governments to fund the reconstruction of roads, sewers, water systems, bridges, garbage disposal units and so on. Not only would the infrastructure be restored, but in turn business investment would be attracted and create jobs.

• (1730)

The Montreal economy is in extremely bad shape, with stores boarded up all over the city, business after business failing, factory after factory closing. Here are some of the sad facts. The official unemployment rate is at 14 per cent, but the actual rate is 27 per cent if we count those who are no longer looking for work. Twenty-two per cent of families in Montreal are living below the poverty line which is higher than any other city in Canada. Another very sad figure, 25 per cent of Montrealers have less than grade nine education. One in five are living on unemployment insurance or welfare and about 10,000 youths are living on the streets without any homes.

There are 170 agencies receiving help, such as food banks to feed the poor. Last year those fed by food banks in Montreal increased by over 35 per cent. We understand there are 30,000 Montrealers dependent on food banks.

In terms of unemployment, income per capita and participation in the labour force, Montreal is now at the bottom of the list of North American cities with one