

Nuclear Armaments

establish the South Pacific as a nuclear weapons free zone, but the treaty has run into some difficulties. While it has been recognized by those members of the South Pacific forum, including New Zealand, Australia, China and the U.S.S.R., both France and the United States have refused to sign.

As well, there are a number of other proposals for nuclear weapons free zones in the world. Talks continue among the Nordic countries to create a Nordic nuclear weapons free zone. Several countries in the Balkan Peninsula from Greece to Romania, Albania, Bulgaria and Yugoslavia are attempting to participate in an agreement that would make that area a nuclear weapons free zone. There is considerable discussion ongoing about extending that zone into Central Europe. Countries in the Indian Ocean area, some African and southeast Asian countries and some of the Middle Eastern countries are also discussing such a proposal.

It is of interest that the Inuit Circumpolar Conference is also at work drafting a proposal for an Arctic nuclear weapons free zone to comply with the ones in the Antarctic and the South Pacific. Seventeen nations including Austria, Japan, New Zealand and Sweden have declared themselves unilaterally to be nuclear weapons free zones.

As a symbolic gesture, the declaration of a nuclear weapons free zone is an expression of will to oppose the nuclear arms race. As one of the proponents has put it, it is a formal declaration by countries that they will neither acquire nuclear weapons nor facilitate the build-up of nuclear weapons by other states, that they will complement and support the non-proliferation treaty and that they will strengthen the momentum to freeze, reduce and eventually eliminate nuclear weapons.

Canada has long taken an official stand in international circles that is supportive of the declaration of nuclear weapons free zones. At the UN special sessions on disarmament in 1978 and in 1982, Canada voted in favour of joining the final declaration on the establishment of such zones. This stated support, however, has not materialized into concrete action in Canada. Only some of the provinces, territories and municipalities have participated.

In reality, Canada appears to provide support for the testing, development and training in the use of nuclear weapons. We allowed the testing of Cruise missiles, for instance. Canada places no restrictions on Canadian industrial involvement in the production of U.S. nuclear and nuclear-capable delivery systems or their components. Canada allows port visits by nuclear-armed naval vessels and has supported this commitment even further by the acquisition or declared acquisition of nuclear-powered submarines as proposed in the recent White Paper.

In addition to these more obvious breaches of our stated non-nuclear policy and our commitment made at the United Nations, Canada is less than stringent in the application of policy restrictions on the export of nuclear-fissionable materials. Although these are not to be used in Canada or

anywhere else for the production of nuclear weapons, there is some evidence to show that our exports to South Korea, France and the United States are making their way into the atomic bomb programs of those countries.

There are a number of things we can do to aid the program we claimed we supported at the United Nations. We can cancel Cruise missile testing and the testing of other nuclear weapons systems or their components in Canada. We can prohibit port visits of nuclear-armed ships as has already been done in Denmark, Norway, Iceland, New Zealand and many other countries. We can pursue the creation of a nuclear weapons free zone in the Arctic together with other nations with Arctic interests, and we could end Canadian industrial participation in the development and production of nuclear weapons systems or their components.

In summary, I would like to put on record the words of representatives of Project Ploughshares. They said:

A nuclear weapons free zone is not an attempt to make one immune to the effects of war, rather it is an attempt to influence national and international behaviour before war breaks out. . . . A nuclear weapons free zone is a peacetime measure to restrict the spread of nuclear weapons, to withdraw political and technical support for the nuclear arms race and to build trust between nations and regions of the globe.

I think Canada could have no better goal than the acceptance of this motion. I would hope that the preliminary step would be taken to establish Canada as a nuclear weapons free zone.

• (1710)

Mr. William C. Winegard (Guelph): Mr. Speaker, the motion before us reflects a concern on the minds of many Canadians. I refer to the role of nuclear weapons in preserving collective security and Canada's responsibility in that regard. Given the awesome destructive power of nuclear weapons it is understandable that Canadians want to be informed and knowledgeable about their Government's policy in this area.

First, I would like to emphasize, as a matter of reality, that Canadian policy and practice is in many respects already in conformity with the resolution before us. Canada does not possess nuclear weapons. In normal peacetime conditions no nuclear weapons are deployed, tested or constructed within Canada, or transported through Canada. Neither could such nuclear weapons-related activities occur on Canadian territory without the express permission of the Canadian Government. I remind the House that Canada is distinct from several of our NATO allies in that we do not have nuclear weapons in our inventory or on our territory. As for Canadian exports, which we just heard about, it is Canadian policy that all exports of nuclear material, equipment and technology shall be for peaceful, non-explosive uses only.

Second, I emphasize that the Government is sympathetic in principal to the broad concept of nuclear weapons free zones. Canada has supported resolutions at the UN calling for the creation of such zones. I note, however, that in the few cases where such zones have been officially proclaimed, they do not