

*International Relations*

we would deal with animals we would not in the Canadian tradition follow in that way.

I hear, unhappily, the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. MacGuigan) suggesting that somehow these nations are independent in name, yet we cannot see the trappings with our eyes, or at least they are not apparent to the forums of our world. Let us not think this is just what Canadians think, but for a moment let us turn to see what the United Nations, the OAS and other forums in Europe are saying. Let us cross the frontiers of parties and find a way whereby Canada can be part of a coalition to bring this great human tragedy to an end.

I want for a moment to address the three concerns which today's opposition motion brings before this House. First, the motion expresses a concern regarding Canada's international relations. Secondly, it calls for a meaningful interest to be taken on the part of Canada in South and Central America, and thirdly, it calls for Canada to take steps toward a negotiated settlement of the civil war in El Salvador.

In relation to our concern for international relations, this was discussed at some length yesterday in the House. Let me suggest that already in our debate today we are seeing the lack of a foreign policy in terms of directions and initiatives as to how we will approach this changing world and this changing hemisphere of ours. We are also in great need of clarifying our relationships with our closest and greatest ally and friend, the United States. I am one who believes that good fences make good neighbours.

At the Progressive Conservative policy conference held some months ago, this resolution was a part of seeking to outline that term of reference:

The Progressive Conservative party believes in the importance and the necessity of maintaining the historic friendship and mutually beneficial economic and defence relations between Canada and the United States, always recognizing the need for Canada to guard its national identity and political, economical and cultural independence.

Over the past weekend we have seen our Mexican neighbours spell out their agreements with the United States but reject the isolationist policy of the United States in Central America. Let me also make one other observation in terms of our concern for international relations; it is a concern about the future of our peacekeeping capacity which may seem only peripherally to bear on the subject at hand today. We are in need in our world of collective security, and yesterday's discussion focused on collective security. We need in the East-West relationship for Canada to be a part of those collective security arrangements and to contribute to them.

I want to suggest that there is a sense of security which is involved not just in Cyprus between Greeks and Turks, or in the Middle East, but a type of collective security which is involved in our capacity to be a peacemaker in the areas of ferment in our world. We need a refocussing of our foreign policy, for what we have today is far too broad for the changing world about which we speak. We need to see ourselves as part of the formation of a world police force to begin to deal with terrorism in all of its forms, whether it be the

violence we see in El Salvador, the violence we see in Europe or violence wherever it is taking place.

Secondly, the motion today calls for a meaningful interest to be taken by Canada in South and Central America. Yesterday we heard the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) speak of his government's belief in peace, in development, in a new era of equality among nations. But in answer to the specifics of Central America, whether it be Guatemala, Nicaragua or El Salvador, we heard an uncertain sound; if the trumpet shall make an uncertain sound, it is written.

● (1640)

Unfortunately, this is what we have heard as the government has sought to spell that out. When questioned about El Salvador and the areas of Central America, the Secretary of State for External Affairs has responded: "It is an area in which we have no special interest". When pressed further, he has said: "We have no traditional Canadian involvement in that sphere". Yet we have been prepared to go as peacekeepers, which is part of our Canadian heritage, to the ends of the world to be a part of peacekeeping efforts and to be in parts of Africa, or wherever called, to supervise and to help bring about elections or whatever.

Yesterday in his intervention the minister spoke of our policy of having mechanisms and arrangements for the peaceful settlement of disputes. Rather, we have seen a bankrupt Canadian policy regarding Central and South America in the face of the disruptions and the tragedies of Central America. When questioned on the specifics, the Prime Minister says: "Why, of course if one side has arms, we will send arms to the other side". How can the Canadian government say that elections are possible if we have no knowledge and if we show so little sensitivity?

Maybe in this new day, of which the Prime Minister spoke yesterday and of which the minister speaks in terms of the evolution of our world, the time has come for us to take the symbolic action of joining the Organization of American States, no longer as an associate member somehow standing on the side saying: "This is something we can nod at when we choose to". If this is a new day, let us begin to build new working relationships. Let us also begin to realize that stability involves literacy, land use and all of the moderate reform which has been referred to already in this debate. If we do not have stability in that area, how can we hope to have effective economic relationships and to trade in the way we hope to trade in the future? If Central America continues to be up in flames, the prospect for our economic, cultural and immigration contacts seems very dim and only possible under emergency situations all the time.

The third part of this resolution suggests that Canada should take steps toward a negotiated settlement in El Salvador. In the March 9 debate in this House the official opposition, through the hon. member for Kingston and the Islands (Miss MacDonald), put forward the proposition that Canada undertake extensive consultations with El Salvador's neighbouring states. We continue to press for that. In its recommen-