

*Special Debate**[Translation]*

I want to emphasize one thing: although we agree that Canada should participate in this important emergency measure, we must remember that it is important to find a long-term solution.

If nothing is done to solve the basic problems and if we do not seek a long-term solution, the problem will resurface once the troops leave.

The long-term solution requires rebuilding of the local political structures. It is also dependent on the involvement of local people and clan leaders in development projects to rebuild infrastructure and restore confidence.

When UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali recommended sending a peacekeeping force to Somalia, he said: "We must also act to promote national reconciliation and thus eliminate the main causes of the humanitarian intervention."

[English]

The Canadian government has not given any real indication about its plans for ensuring long-term stability. The Secretary of State for External Affairs said today, when asked this question by me in the House of Commons, that the long-term plan would be looked at after the short-term plan was executed. It seems to me that surely we would not be sending young men and women into a very risky situation without some intervention as well at the diplomatic level and with other countries to work toward achieving a necessary and long-lasting solution.

This clearly is a deviation and a new policy for Canada in many ways. We have had a very long role in peacekeeping and clearly that role is now changing. The traditional peacekeeping is changing into what is being called peacemaking.

The humanitarian grounds that have occasioned this change in policy we certainly support. I think there is an extremely compelling reason to care for our brothers and sisters in all parts of this world. However, I do urge the government to come forward with proposals for a long-term solution, not simply to deny that can wait. These proposals should be debated in Parliament. They should be advocated within the United Nations. We should have a government that is activist in providing real alternatives that will bring long-term peace and stability in

Somalia and that will be a model for future crises in other parts of the world.

On the question of the role of the United Nations, I would like to make several comments. We see again for the most part that it is the powerful military dominance of the United States which is taking a leadership role in this effort. While I must commend the UN Secretary-General for setting up an important accountability structure, it is fundamentally not healthy for a country, which incidentally happens to be the single largest debtor to the United Nations, to act as the dominant force in such an operation.

On November 30 the UN Secretary-General wrote to the Security Council and said: "If forceful action is taken, it should preferably be under UN command and control. If this is not feasible an alternative would be an operation undertaken by member states acting with the authorization of the Security Council". However, last Friday the chief of forces said the Americans are going to run this operation.

The lesson of the gulf war and the lesson we are learning now is that the world governments must work to establish a UN command structure, perhaps in consideration of resurrecting the military staff committee of the United Nations. It is now imperative that such a system be established so that future conflicts will not have to be addressed through U.S. command and U.S. control.

Let me stress that it is essential that information be shared with this House of Commons in terms of what the role of our troops will be, how long it is anticipated they will be there and, as I mentioned earlier, the long-term plan. There has been as yet none of these details available to the House of Commons and more important to the Canadian people.

Our party supports the United Nations. We support a reformed United Nations as we feel it is the major hope for humanity in this world.

• (1930)

The Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali earlier this year tabled significant proposals for a strengthened and revitalized United Nations in his agenda for peace. The UN operation in Somalia represents the first significant test for these principles and I urge the Canadian government and other countries to do their part to ensure that these principles are implemented.