

to take place in Paris on October 17. It is proposed to request the World Bank organization to extend, through the International Development Agency, a loan of \$50 million to the Saigon regime. The proposed Canadian contribution would be of the order of \$5 million.

I urge that, before Canada consents to this, conditions be imposed, namely that real progress must be made in the freeing of political prisoners and that adequate international inspection of places of detention by the International Red Cross or some other international body be permitted. Such loans should be made to all areas of war ravaged Viet Nam, not to one area alone, in accordance with the spirit of the Paris peace agreement. It is said that these international organizations like the World Bank do not operate on political considerations, but is it not a political act, while a conflict is going on, to extend aid to one side and not the other?

I should like to hear from the Secretary of State for External Affairs whether Canada is to be represented at this meeting and, if so, what attitude we are going to take. Much the same could be said of the situation in Chile, but I presume my time is coming to an end so I shall not enlarge on that matter. Here again is a regime that has demonstrated a record of terror and suppression of human rights, one that should not be bolstered through economic aid in the form of loans from international consortia or otherwise.

If we are to have a peaceful and stable world in which humanism is to be the touchstone of policy, then we need to give more effective support to the United Nations. I do not blame people for being disillusioned and frustrated over the futility which inevitably flows from a body that is not in itself a sovereign power but can only act after a measure of consensus between its individual members, who are sovereign states, has been reached. However, the importance of the United Nations to world peace cannot be denied.

It is no accident that three most important international gatherings have taken place recently under the aegis of the United Nations. I refer to the Stockholm conference on the environment, the Bucharest conference on world population, and the coming world food conference in Rome. All of these were convened by and through the United Nations, which is helping to build an international order that is absolutely essential for the peaceful development of humanity.

I think I should also say a word about peacekeeping operations. They do not always succeed. Although the political results are not what they might be, I think every Canadian has a right to be proud of the fact that in Cyprus the Canadian Armed Forces played a tremendously vital role in the saving of human life and the development of what is at least a truce that has some chance of becoming a stable settlement in that unhappy island. Nor should we forget the role of the United Nations in the conflict in the Middle East. Suffice it to say that, whether Mr. Head was misquoted or not, the time has come for Canada to heighten its world influence—and I am using his words—by taking a more moralistic approach to international problems and a more active role on a humanist basis in foreign affairs, a basis that puts its emphasis on human problems that affect people wherever they live.

The Address—Mr. Johnston

We wish the Secretary of State for External Affairs the very best in his onerous task, and if the government's policies are directed to the ends that I have described, he can count on our support.

Mr. Howard Johnston (Okanagan-Kootenay): It gives me great pleasure, through you, Madam Speaker, to congratulate the Speaker of the House on his appointment to that high position, as well as to you for filling the role so well through some of these sittings. Those who know me will know that I have long advocated a more important role for women in the politics of this country, and one thing that pleases me about this parliament is the number of ladies who are here as members from a variety of constituencies.

● (1610)

I also congratulate the hon. member for Montmorency (Mr. Duclos) and the hon. member for Vancouver East (Mr. Lee) for their able moving and seconding of the Address in Reply to the Speech from the Throne. I appreciate the honour to my province that was extended when the hon. member for Vancouver East was asked to undertake that particular task.

It is good to be back. I sat in this House as the member for Okanagan-Revelstoke some six years ago. It gives me great pleasure now to return as the member for Okanagan-Kootenay, a much larger constituency than that which I represented previously.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Johnston: While I was in Ottawa earlier for one of our party's caucuses I happened to run into the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles) as he was leaving the building. He spoke to me in his usual kind, and affable way. He said I was one of the recidivists. I was rather pleased he had not referred to it as returning to the scene of the crime.

At the time I was thinking of it more in the nature of a reincarnation, but I realized because of the background of the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre that for me to have replied to him using that word would have led to some theological problems. It seemed to me that he and the members of his party had enough political problems at the present time, and that therefore I should not add to them.

It has given me a great deal of pleasure to meet a number of parliamentary colleagues who were here when I was previously here. I refer to colleagues in all the parties represented in the House. I see that many cabinet ministers are still here from those previous years. They are very much to be remembered, as well as those other people who administer to us in the Parliament of Canada, all those people who conduct small duties. I refer to the waitresses, the messengers and others. It has moved me very deeply to be remembered by so many of them.

I represent, in Okanagan-Kootenay, a very diversified constituency. In some ways for two-thirds of the constituency this is a maiden speech because I am representing those people for the first time.

It is a marvellously beautiful constituency, one that was visited by the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Stanfield)