

*Special Debate*

ask: Is the present morass a success or has the United Nations become part of the problem despite its best intentions?

The fact remains that the UN's involvement in Bosnia is in limbo, with the very strong possibility that Canadians will be forced into a situation of peacemaking. If the international community is serious about making peace, then maybe the military role ought to be handed over to NATO with a mandate to end the fighting through military means. Yes, I know that solution is also problematic. It is again possible that nothing will be solved. The warring parties will not have settled their differences and fighting would resume once NATO withdrew.

This House must recognize that we should only be sending troops on peacekeeping missions where the warring parties have fought their battles and are ready to negotiate and to sit down at the negotiating table to come to terms with a lasting peace.

What we are doing is committing our soldiers and our nation to a moral dilemma. We must stay forever or else by leaving, become responsible for the resumption of hostilities. Canada cannot afford and has no moral authority to become not only the world's policeman but a permanent benevolent occupier in troubled areas.

• (2120)

Is this commitment going to turn into one of 29 years or more in the former Yugoslavia as we ended up committing ourselves to in Cyprus? Remember this is just another chapter in a centuries old conflict that appears to be without an end.

As we debate this issue in the House tonight we can clearly see that none of the four criteria outlined by the Reform caucus has been met. Support for our continued presence in Bosnia is waning at home as well.

I heard one of the members on the other side of the House ask: What are your constituents saying? In my riding we conducted a telephone poll and 68 per cent of the constituents told me they would like us to leave as quickly as possible.

For just 30 seconds, Mr. Speaker, I would quickly like to turn to Croatia where President Tudjman would like to see UN peacekeepers, at least he did say he would like them out—

**The Deputy Speaker:** I am sorry, the member's time is up unless there is unanimous consent. There are at least six other members who were hoping to speak in this debate, as I understand it. Is there unanimous consent to give the member additional time beyond his 10 minutes?

**Some hon. members:** Agreed.

**The Deputy Speaker:** Very well, the member has unanimous consent.

**Mr. Hart:** Mr. Speaker, I thank the members of the House.

President Tudjman in Croatia has had a change of heart and said he would like to keep some peacekeepers in Croatia. The problem is that the only peacekeepers he would like to remain would be unarmed monitors. That is not satisfactory in this volatile situation. We should get our troops out before any further fighting begins. We should give the United Nations three months warning that we are planning to do that so it can fill the vacuum when we leave.

Finally, all Canadians can be proud of the Canadian troops who have served their country valiantly and well in the former Yugoslavia.

**Mr. Leonard Hopkins (Renfrew—Nipissing—Pembroke, Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, this has been a very good debate tonight. I congratulate all those who have spoken for their candour and openness and for putting their points forward.

We have to remind ourselves that Canada was one of the key founders of the United Nations, one of the key partners in that formation.

Today's problems are many and great, as has been pointed out. However they pale significantly when one recalls the world wars and catastrophes that have occurred over the history of mankind. The United Nations was founded to try to prevent that from happening again. It requires every responsible nation that belongs to the UN to pull its weight and to work toward the aim of peace, regardless of how frustrating and how crooked that road may seem.

Many Canadian peacekeepers have served in the former Yugoslavia, particularly in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Croatia. Today some 2,080 are over there performing their role on behalf of Canada and the international community.

It behoves each and every one of us in the House tonight to thank the people who have served there in the past and in other peacekeeping duties around the world. They have served Canada well and will continue to do so. It also behoves us tonight to thank the Canadian people at large for the support they have given our Canadian soldiers as they go about doing their great mission on behalf of international peace.

Recently we heard that the Bosnian Serbs have called for a general mobilization. That is bad news. It almost seems as if when summertime comes the weather is better for fighting. It is a sad commentary on mankind.

• (2125)

Hatred is older than the hills, but it is there and it must be dealt with. It must be dealt with by responsible nations, those that maintain their calmness in duty and have very specific responsible aims in place as they look to the future.