

NATO Summit

matter of détente, particularly in respect of the right of citizens to leave a country. My concern is that détente may be negotiated without anything effectively being determined in this connection and that the détente will, *de facto* at least, involve approval by us of the very limited movement which is now available to citizens of the U.S.S.R. and other countries. Can the Prime Minister give us any encouragement in this regard?

Mr. Trudeau: Well, Mr. Speaker, the question of détente was raised by several of the heads of government as well as the question of the mutual and balanced forced reduction. I raised this myself in my remarks. I would point out that the meeting in Brussels was not so organized nor so convened in a way that would permit us to discuss in any detail the question of détente or MBFR. Timing itself was not set with those two objectives in mind. That is the reason the Canadian government, the Secretary of State for External Affairs and myself had some reservations about the date of the recent meeting. We thought that more progress might have been achieved had there been a greater period of preparedness.

That is not to argue that we were not prepared to go. In fact, we did go. We were just arguing on the most effective way of meeting. Indeed, that was also the substance of my interventions on the matter of more frequent heads of government meetings. I would not advocate such meetings if they were merely for the purpose of sitting around the table and reading speeches to each other. I believe more should go into these meetings. That is why I argued. This is linked, once again, to my proposal concerning more frequent meetings and my hesitation about going on a specific date to the one which just took place.

As to the substance of the détente discussions, the Secretary of State for External Affairs would certainly be prepared to answer in greater detail perhaps at another time. The Leader of the Opposition is really stating the policy which has been that of the Canadian government, for which we are well known. There is, in technical language, the third basket, the one in which we have insisted that détente must go hand in hand with the free movement of people and ideas and an exchange of information between the two blocs, and that merely a military détente would not be satisfactory. We insist on this third basket. I am told that progress is being made on that. I would remind the hon. gentleman that that has been the Canadian position from the outset. We have gained a great deal of support for it. That continues to be our position. I believe that covers the matters about which I was asked.

Mr. Brewin: Mr. Speaker, as the hon. member for Oshawa-Whitby pointed out, the Prime Minister in his statement on NATO did not deal with the type of military contribution Canada proposes to make. I should like to put this question to him: Is it contemplated that Canada will continue its role in the front line of the central front in Europe, which would clearly involve a very heavy expenditure for new equipment, or is it contemplated that Canada might contribute a mobile contingent for use on the flanks of NATO which are said to be particularly vulnerable at the present time?

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, the defence structure review to which I referred in my statement, and indeed at Brus-

[Mr. Stanfield.]

sels, is precisely to ensure that it is at the same time effective in military and in economic terms. As I told them quite candidly, our defence review is not terminated at the present time. I could not answer the type of question the hon. member is asking me.

I did receive representations from them concerning the kind of structure they would like to see. I pointed out to them that Canada had a whole set of priorities and would try to make its defence structure as effective as possible within all those priorities. But I did give them the assurance, which I understand is not supported by the New Democratic Party, that our political adherence to NATO remained firm and we had no intention of withdrawing in a political sense, and that in a military sense we have no intention either of reducing our contribution there. I realize that is not the position of the hon. member for Oshawa-Whitby. I am sure it is not known to him that every socialist leader I met there argued on the contrary, the Prime Minister of Great Britain, the Prime Minister of The Netherlands—

Mr. Broadbent: Did you go to Sweden?

Mr. Trudeau: —the Prime Minister of the Federal Republic of West Germany. Indeed, this even appears to be the position of the Portuguese government in which I think the hon. member is hoping the socialists will play a not inconsiderable part. I will gladly go to Sweden. I suggest that the hon. member might perhaps take a little trip to see some of his socialist friends, too.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Laprise: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the right hon. Prime Minister whether at that meeting of heads of states of member countries of NATO the subject was raised of contributions not only by Canada but every member country of NATO, and did the Prime Minister himself make commitments for Canada and can he inform the House in that respect?

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, I thank the hon. member for his question as well as the seriousness of the comment he made at the beginning of this period, a seriousness that I think contrasts somehow with the attitude of the leaders of other parties. I would like to say in direct reply to his question that the specific discussion about which he is asking was not raised at the meeting I attended. Defence ministers of NATO countries had discussed this kind of problems in some detail one or two weeks before. In brief, Mr. Speaker, the Canadian position is that we are now conducting a study about the most efficient course for our contribution to NATO. So it is possible we may change the methods of participation. But in so far as the funds, our political and military involvement in NATO and in so far as our desire to make sure that our military participation is maintained, at least at the present level, I did not leave any doubts and I gave the assurance on behalf of the government of Canada that that would be our way of participating.