

striking point: that insofar as American right to lifers have had any effect at all on the worldwide resort to abortion that impact has been to increase both its frequency and its cost in maternal suffering and death.

He then proceeded to an analysis of the situation in the United States over the abortion issue—an issue which is a matter of astonishment to many countries in the world where infanticide is still a major issue, and abortion, legal or illegal, is the only option for many couples because of the lack of contraceptives, clean water and the other basics of reproductive life. Rather than continuing, I would be happy to supply a copy of McGeorge Bundy's speech to any of my colleagues who are interested. I will also curtail my remarks on the other speakers.

In addition, the forum spent one day in regional committees. I attended the regional group on the Arab States and Europe. The Arab States situation with respect to population is complex and fascinating, but, once again, in the interest of time, I will curtail my comments there; however, I would be glad to amplify them to anyone who is interested in that situation.

The forum ended with the publication of the Amsterdam Declaration, entitled "A Better Life for Future Generations", in which is described the conditions under which population growth is developing, some of which I intended to discuss earlier. The existing documents, for example, such as the 1989 State of the World Population Report, the question of population and sustainable development, and the question of population objectives and program priorities are included in the declaration.

In the latter it is stated that at the very least, in the coming decade and beyond, national population goals and objectives should include a reduction in the average number of children born per woman; a reduction in the 1980 rate of infant mortality to the rates of, at the most, 50 per 1,000 live births by the year 2000; a reduction in maternal mortality from all causes, including illegal abortion, by at least 50 per cent by the year 2000, particularly in regions where this figure currently exceeds 100 per 100,000 births; an increase in the average life expectancy at birth to 62 years or more in high mortality countries; and a better geographical distribution of the population within national territories in balance with the proper use of resources.

In addition to commenting on the needs to have better data for population policy and program planning, in which endeavour both Statistics Canada and CIDA have been very helpful, it comments on the need for research into contraceptive technology and social science research into the determinants of fertility, family attitudes and behaviour, in particular sexual behaviour, family relationships and traditions concerning women.

The program priorities include the need to examine the impact of education on demographic behaviour; the need to raise the social and economic value of girl children in the family—and I should like to point out that the South Asian countries have declared 1990 the year of the girl-child, as

[Senator Marsden]

female infanticide is still a very major problem in those countries; the need to increase women's participation in decision making; to improve the comfort and quality of maternal and child health; and to improve the health generally, especially in the reproductive cycle.

All of this is expensive and requires the involvement of all donor countries as well as receiving countries. But, as the Declaration says:

We, the participants of the International Forum on Population in the Twenty-First Century, are convinced that unless effective action is taken immediately future resources will be woefully inadequate.

The Declaration calls on all governments to increase their activities and commitments.

Honourable senators, I would be happy to supply copies of the Amsterdam Declaration or any of the accompanying speeches to anyone who is interested, but, above all, I would ask all senators to revisit the population question. We are so comfortable in this country, yet so much fuss is often made about the small number of immigrants and refugees who reach our shores. We are so preoccupied with increasing our taxes and reducing our services that we are failing to look over our shoulder at the monumental problem with which the world, of which we are a part, is trying to cope. Our official absence at a leading political level in Amsterdam was evidence of this. I encourage all honourable senators to bring this to the attention of the government.

**The Hon. the Acting Speaker:** Honourable senators, if no other senator wishes to speak, this inquiry is considered debated.

#### LEADER OF THE GOVERNMENT IN THE SENATE

##### MOTION FOR TABLING OF DOCUMENTS SENT TO NEWSPAPERS AND MAGAZINES—DEBATE ADJOURNED

**Hon. Gildas L. Molgat:** Honourable senators, I wish to move the motion standing in my name, but, with leave of the Senate, I should like to make a small amendment, which would be that after the word "House" in the first line we add the words "in the language in which they were sent," and that the French text be corrected to provide the same information.

**The Hon. the Acting Speaker:** Is leave granted, honourable senators?

**Hon. Senators:** Agreed.

**Senator Molgat:** Honourable senators, I therefore move:

That there be laid before this House, in the language in which they were sent, copies of all articles, letters to the editor, comments, sent to all newspapers and magazines in Canada by Honourable Senator Lowell Murray, Government Leader in the Senate, since 3rd June 1987, showing the dates on which each of these were sent, and the names of the newspapers and magazines to which they were sent.

On motion of Senator Doody, debate adjourned.