

Adjournment Debate

when the agreement with South Korea is tabled in the House after the fact.

The government is bent on a course of madness. A cloak of morality has been thrown over this madness. That cloak must be ripped away and the nuclear sale to South Korea exposed and stopped before it is too late.

Thanks to the Prime Minister's (Mr. Trudeau) unappealing speech to the Canadian Nuclear Association it has suddenly become moral, even obligatory, to share nuclear technology with the developing world. Of course the Prime Minister has worked to achieve a foolproof inspection system to guarantee against nuclear bomb proliferation. The point is that we do not yet have an internationally recognized foolproof system. We have to rely on the good faith of recipient countries that they will not abuse technology. Already South Korea has expressed reticence about Canada's tougher controls, doubtless slowing down the agreement. Even if South Korea accepts Canada's term there is no guarantee that future governments in that military dictatorship will not abrogate or evade them.

The point I wish to emphasize is that it is folly verging on the criminal to assume that Canada will be able to impose the additional bilateral safeguards it desires. General E.L.M. Burns, respected head of Canadian disarmament teams for many years, warns us against nuclear sales to governments that are autocratic and not stable. If the military in South Korea think they should have nuclear weapons, he says, "no inspection agreement is going to stop it".

In effect, General Burns feels that the government's duty is to do nothing which may lead to the proliferation of nuclear weapons and that this obligation, which is explicit in Article III of the non-proliferation treaty, takes precedence over Canada's desire to assist, through nuclear technology, the underdeveloped nations of the world.

It is true that the CANDU reactor itself is safe in that it cannot be turned into a bomb. But the spent fuel from the Canadian reactor, when reprocessed in the proper way, can produce a bomb. The French have been exporting this very process, and South Korea has recently purchased a \$50 million reprocessing plant from France. Moreover, President Park of South Korea has stated that his country will be obliged to develop nuclear weapons if U.S. assurances of nuclear protection against North Korea are ever withdrawn.

● (2210)

How much more evidence do we need to realize that any agreement with South Korea will not be worth the paper it is written on? At the very least, as the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Stanfield) said some months ago in the House, there should be a moratorium on reactor sales, pending agreement on foolproof safeguards by the six nuclear exporting nations.

Instead of making a quick buck from South Korea under the guise of morality, Canada ought to be leading the way in strengthening and expanding international co-operation in finding safeguard agreements. This work is imperative since by the end of this year there will be 650 nuclear reactors operating in 38 countries. It is precisely because of our superiority in nuclear technology that we must put statesmanship ahead of salesmanship.

[Mr. Roche.]

Finally, I plead with the Canadian government to stop and look at what kind of government we are dealing with in South Korea. It is one of the more repressive regimes on earth today. The Park regime is accused by international observers of economic injustice, corruption, and increasing violation of human rights.

An Amnesty International mission to South Korea said this:

The mission found torture is frequently used by law enforcement agencies both in an attempt to extract false confessions and as a means of intimidation.

There are also reports of cruel and arbitrary punishment in military life.

Other secular human rights groups have criticized the regime, including the International Commission of Jurists and the International League for the Rights of Man. The World Conference of Religion for Peace has publicly expressed its deep concern about the political repression in South Korea, especially for those who, out of their religious conscience, have expressed their stand against the violation of human rights by the Park government, and who are now in jail. This is the administration the Canadian government says it will trust. What a distortion of morality we are sliding into; what madness!

[Translation]

Miss Monique Bégin (Parliamentary Secretary to Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, in my answer on behalf of the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. MacEachen) to the hon. member for Edmonton-Strathcona (Mr. Roche), I would first of all enlighten his personal judgment concerning the government of the Republic of Korea. His judgment may obviously not be shared by other Canadians whose values are not the same as those of the hon. member. I must ask who are we to pass judgment on political systems under which other people choose to live. That has not been the major line of thought in our commercial dealings with other countries, particularly as regards the sale of nuclear reactors.

[English]

We have attached great importance to that sort of dealing with another country, and no Canadian can question the seriousness of our approach to any international binding agreement.

The Republic of Korea has never abrogated any international agreement it has concluded. We know also that the Republic of Korea is a party to the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty whereby it has undertaken an international treaty commitment to the international community not to develop any nuclear explosive devices, and under the same treaty it has placed its entire nuclear program under the International Atomic Energy Agency.

May I just conclude by saying it is well known to my colleague opposite that it is not the international practice to table treaties before they are signed. They are made public after the text has been cosigned by the governments concerned. I should like to make very clear that the Government of Canada is, with the rest of the international community, trying to find better ways to ensure that nuclear devices are used for a pacific purpose only.