

*Viet Nam War*

However, on reading yesterday's Hansard, I was surprised to find the following statement made by the member for York South (Mr. Lewis), in the next to the last paragraph, left column, page 7:

We believe, Mr. Speaker, as we said in a statement yesterday, that it is the duty of this parliament, at the earliest possible moment to express its abhorrence of the destruction already produced and to appeal to the President and Congress of the United States to end unconditionally—

—and I underline “unconditionally”—

—all bombing in North and South Viet Nam, to sign the treaty negotiated last fall and to bring an end to all military action on both sides.

Mr. Speaker, I was greatly surprised by this statement, because whether it be a simple scuffle, a street brawl or a war, it takes at least two to fight, and I am yet to be convinced that the United States of America were the only country thrusting itself upon Viet Nam.

I am sure that there is a third party in that war. And when I see demonstrations and hear dissenters like the hon. member for York South shouting in the streets, everywhere: “Yankees go home”, I think they should also add “Russia go home, China go home”.

I cannot believe that a country as weak as North Viet Nam is said to be can stand up alone to a military power as strong as the combined forces of the U.S. and South Viet Nam. That is impossible.

There has been ample evidence that Russian or Chinese armaments have been found on battlefields. This is an indication that the North Viet Nam communists are having strong support in this war which aims at establishing communism in the whole of Indochina.

• (1440)

Mr. Speaker, in the past wars were often waged for the love of a woman. The ladies will excuse me but this is a fact. On the other hand our modern wars are rather wars for nylon, polyethylene or oil and the Indochina war is an oil war itself and those who will benefit from the huge oil deposits which exist there will have their say since they will control this part of the world.

Mr. Speaker, this nation is composed of seven separate sections and, in my opinion, an additional section should have been inserted between sections six and seven and should read as follows:

That this House requests North Viet Nam to put an end to subversion by guerilla warfare and requests the U.S.S.R. and Communist China to withdraw from this conflict simultaneously with the U.S.A.

Any war is obviously terrible and if we want this war to end soon each party involved should show enough goodwill in their negotiations and actions to prove that it is possible to grant the Vietnamese people, whether from North or South Viet Nam, complete liberty to choose their own government. Thus the neighbouring countries will be reassured, mainly Laos and Cambodia which are quite aware that as soon as the American forces withdraw from Indo-China, communism will extend to their own territory.

Mr. Speaker, as a member country of the International Control Commission in Vietnam, we are not quite sure until now of the importance of our participation as was the case for about all our previous participations of this kind and Canada, through the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Sharp), has stated that, if required, we were prepared to provide a control commission with all possible assistance to see that cease-fire is enforced.

Mr. Speaker, this control commission of which Canada would be a member should have free access to all information. After the cease-fire, it should have carte blanche to have it respected by the parties concerned, otherwise it will not be able to fulfil its task.

So, Mr. Speaker, it is obvious that, for humanitarian reasons, we must make the necessary recommendations and accept this resolution so as to stress, not only to the Americans but also to the other party concerned, the necessity, the urgency and the wish that this war cease as soon as possible.

[English]

Motion agreed to.

On motion of Mr. MacEachen the House adjourned at 2.50 p.m.