

update the rules of what is right in war or what limits civilized man will accept in waging war.

Mr. David Lewis (York South): Mr. Speaker, of course I appreciate the fact that the minister was prepared with a statement today, and of course I appreciate the fact, as does every Canadian, that the majority of the American people are as outraged by what they heard as are people all over the world. But I as one member of this Parliament cannot feel happy—indeed I feel rather outraged—that it took several questions before this government declared its abhorrence of the atrocities that have taken place in Viet Nam.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Lewis: Members opposite can groan as much as they like, but the fact is that throughout the immoral U.S. war in Viet Nam, the government of Canada has not had the courage to state its position against that war.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Lewis: It is also a fact that when the Secretary of State for External Affairs made his statement this afternoon he spoke in generalities about the pain he feels with regard to these atrocities, following which he clearly indicated that he is not prepared to condemn, as I believe all Canadians do, the kind of atmosphere which has been created by the immoral war in Viet Nam and which enables good Americans to act in that way.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Lewis: The minister said he knows for certain that there will not be general support at the United Nations for a certain action. How does he know? When did we arrive at the point at which the minister takes solace from the fact that the Communist members of the United Nations have acted in a certain way? Since when has that prevented him from taking a position? He has always failed to take a position when the Americans have not wanted it. Are we now to refuse to take a position because the Communist countries do not want it?

An hon. Member: You support the Communists.

Mr. Lewis: I say it is the duty of this government and our smiling Prime Minister to make certain that the voice of Canada is

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heard against the American atrocities in Viet Nam. I know that atrocities are committed by the other side, but we are not associated with the other side; we are associated with the Americans. The Secretary of State for External Affairs is not associated with the Viet Cong and the North Vietnamese—

An hon. Member: But you are.

Mr. Lewis: Furthermore, we do not ship arms to the North Vietnamese or the Viet Cong. Therefore we are directly implicated in this situation which lays upon us a particular obligation to speak out against these atrocities.

I say finally to the minister that he has an immediate opportunity to show where Canada stands. According to press reports, a resolution is now before the United Nations sponsored by Sweden and some other members of the UN condemning the use by the United States of chemical warfare in Viet Nam. I hope the minister will have the courage to instruct our representative at the UN to support and, if possible, to co-sponsor that resolution.

• (2:40 p.m.)

[*Translation*]

Mr. Réal Caouette (Témiscamingue): Mr. Speaker, the statement by the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Sharp) makes clear enough Canada's attitude with regard to the events which took place in Viet Nam.

It is obvious that the courts will have the opportunity of meting out due punishment to the parties responsible for the atrocities perpetrated over there and which were acknowledged by the President of the United States. However, we should not overlook the fact that the atrocities committed by both belligerent parties have spawned in a war atmosphere and that in every war situation there are abuses.

During the Second World War, atrocities were committed both by the Allies and Germany. Armed conflicts necessarily lead to hatred, always.

We must not try to do what the hon. member for York South (Mr. Lewis) has been trying to do for several months and maybe several years in this House, namely try to stir up the Canadians against the Americans. He does recognize that North Viet Nam has also committed atrocities. However, since we are allied with the Americans we must blame them all the more. Besides, it is not the first time that the member for York South shows