

NATO Report

highly important and deep seated review of a crucial phase of our foreign and external policy. This was done the day after parliament adjourned. Here we are back again today and the Minister of National Defence makes a statement in which he says that he informed our allies, but he did nothing to inform this house about the crucial details. I was pleased, as I am sure other members of the house were, to find that in the consultations at NATO there seems to have been a new emphasis on the manner of organizing a détente. We in this party warmly welcome that because we want to make it perfectly clear that in our view NATO cannot continue to have the loyalty and credibility of its member nations unless it ceases to be merely a bureaucratic military alliance continuing policies that were appropriate in the past and that are no longer appropriate at the present time.

I am inclined to regret that the proposal for a European security conference seems to have been pushed aside, although perhaps that is wrong and it is really to be explored. May I say that we in this party will give our warmest support to anything that this government does while it is a member within NATO to see that NATO is used for the purpose of organizing and arranging a new security system in Europe.

To end these remarks, may I express the hope that the minister's announcement is only a brief prelude to a full discussion both in this house and in the defence committee of the urgent defence and external affairs policies which call for decision at the present time.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Gérard Laprise (Abitibi): Mr. Speaker, my remarks concerning the statement made by the Minister of National Defence (Mr. Cadieux) will be rather brief.

I wish to thank the minister for sending me a little in advance a copy of this statement, but I would like to point out to him, however, that it was drafted only in English. Nevertheless he did take the trouble to give us a few extracts in French and the interpreters did the rest.

I am happy, as everyone is, to find out that following this conference commemorating NATO's twentieth anniversary, steps have been taken to continue or intensify negotiations in order to improve, if possible, through NATO, the security of Europe.

[Mr. Brewin.]

As far as I am concerned, I believe that as long as there are negotiations, as long as there is a dialogue, one can hope for improvements in the existing differences. However, I still have a doubt, because if we consider the billions of dollars the existing powers are spending year after year for armaments, we can but ask ourselves whether this is serious. For instance if we look at the statistics for the year 1967, we shall see that in the countries we know approximately \$6 billions have been spent on development work and \$150 billions on armaments. And when one spends 25 times more on armaments than on development, one must ask oneself if this is logical and what one is after, on the Warsaw Pact side as on the NATO side.

Mr. Speaker, the minister tells us that other matters were discussed, such as the external aid the member countries of NATO can provide.

I believe that we could do a lot more by reducing arms expenditures, by increasing our assistance to the developing countries, and by helping the European countries to pursue their development and to meet their own needs.

And that is why, Mr. Speaker, I agree that Canada should continue her contribution to NATO, but recall her troops home as soon as possible. If necessary, she can, at a given time, contribute to the defence of Europe.

I conclude my remarks by saying, as did the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Stanfield) at the beginning of his observations, that the brief statement made this afternoon is far from completing the one made after the adjournment for Easter. I hope, Mr. Speaker, that we will get the chance, very soon, to discuss and study in detail our participation to the defence of Europe, to NORAD and to the defence of the free world in general.

• (2:30 p.m.)

[*English*]

NATIONAL RESOURCES AND PUBLIC WORKS

CONCURRENCE IN THIRD REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

Mr. Leonard Hopkins (Renfrew North) moved that the third report of the Standing Committee on National Resources and Public Works, presented to the house on Tuesday, April 1, be concurred in.

Motion agreed to.