

Business of Supply

I asked the Secretary of State for External Affairs a few weeks ago about this matter. He said he was waiting to see what the Security Council would decide as to the action to be followed. I suggest that the whole prestige of the world community, the United Nations in particular, is at stake. In clear pronouncements it has been defied, and it is up to the United Nations, if it is to have any credibility, to take effective action to vindicate the pronouncements which have been repeatedly made by the world community, and which Canada has supported.

Canada has a special responsibility in Namibia because a Canadian firm, known as Falconbridge—some of my hon. friends know of this company more intimately than I do—has been taking mineral resources out of Namibia under a licence from South Africa without the consent of the legal authorities in that area. I do not have the time to go into the conditions which exist there, the wage rates paid, and the exploitation, about which Mr. Hugh Mangle wrote in the *Ottawa Citizen* some time ago. He reported that of all the Canadian companies with subsidiaries in South Africa, Falconbridge has the most unenviable and depressing record. What does the Canadian government propose to do, by legal steps or otherwise, to discourage a subsidiary of a Canadian corporation from pursuing its course of illegality and exploitation?

I have mentioned grave problems facing the world, but I have concentrated on basic human needs and human rights. By the acceptance of moral obligations, difficult and vast though the problems are, they could be overcome.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Stanfield: Mr. Chairman, I understand that it was the intention of those who put forward the resolution today to discuss foreign aid in general, CIDA and also the question of nuclear proliferation, and I am confining myself to the subject of nuclear proliferation, not because I believe that foreign aid generally is either unimportant or being run as well as it might be, but because I have grown very concerned about nuclear proliferation and because I feel it important that we have in this House a full debate on the subject of where Canada fits in the whole picture.

I am sorry that the Prime Minister is not here. He indicated a few days ago that he would gladly join in such a debate. I hope he finds it possible to do so, not because I lack any appreciation of the ability of intelligence of the Secretary of State for External Affairs, but because I believe it is one of the great issues of our time and one which the Prime Minister has indicated from time to time is the sort of thing we should discuss on these opposition days.

I do not rise to say things which are controversial, or to provoke controversy, but to examine the problem and its extent and to consider Canada's role in the face of this great problem. The dilemma for the world at large is obvious. With regard to Canada's devotion to non-proliferation, the Prime Minister made recent efforts in Europe to persuade certain countries to sign non-proliferation agreements. In addition to that, the nuclear powers, the countries with nuclear technology, are committed to sharing this technology for civilian purposes and peaceful purposes and to helping countries without that technology to

[Mr. Brewin.]

receive the benefits of it. That is one side of the equation. In addition to that, of course, there is increasing demand for this technology from countries which do not have it. This is associated, as it has to be, with the increase in the price of petroleum and the importance of countries acquiring the ability to generate energy from nuclear sources.

So there is a real dilemma. We have a commitment to help countries acquire this technology, which is of increasing importance to countries which do not have it. There is an apparent desire on the part of some countries which do not have this technology to acquire both the technology and the wherewithal to manufacture atomic bombs. Then, too, we have the desire of half a dozen countries with the technology to do business on that basis. We are one of the countries with nuclear technology, and the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources said in this House on December 20, 1974:

With uranium resources in excess of our requirements and a competitive Canadian reactor, we are in the position to make an important contribution to the pressing energy needs of the world and are willing to make it.

That is one way of putting it, but it might be thought that it is a slightly hypocritical way of putting it. Someone might have said that having uranium and the reactor, we are in a position to do business, and we want to do business. I think we should be frank with each other and recognize that we have a desire in Canada, as do other countries with this technology, to do business. We should make certain that we always have that in mind and do not become overanxious in how we judge the problem and the safeguards.

● (1540)

The weekly edition of *Le Monde* for June 5 to June 11 contains a comprehensive commentary called

[Translation]

Proliferation Time

The summing up of commercial nuclear agreements discussed since 1973 is impressive. To wit:

The United States offered a 600-megawatt nuclear power plant to Egypt, another to Israel; the Soviet Union, a 460-megawatt plant to Egypt. France and the Federal Republic of Germany are attempting to sell each of them two 900-megawatt plants, and one of 1300-megawatt to Iran. France is negotiating the sale of a 500-megawatt unit to Iraq, and has promised Iran to install a nuclear research plant with three small reactors. Canada sells a 600-megawatt plant to Argentina and another to South Korea. Egypt tries to purchase a plant from France; Libya, a research plant with a small reactor from the United States, but, up against the guarantees demanded by the Americans, finally reaches an agreement with the Soviet Union. For its part, Brazil, for lack of having managed to reach an agreement with the United States, endeavours to negotiate one with the Federal Republic of Germany for the purchase of recycling facilities including several 1300-megawatt reactors and an enrichment plant...

That is not all...

[English]

And so the article continues. I read this just to give a resumé of some of the measures and deals that are being discussed. We in Canada, of course, signed a non-proliferation treaty but a lot of countries, including Argentina, have not signed it. Yet we are apparently trying to sell a reactor to Argentina. South Korea signed the non-proliferation treaty but I understand has not yet ratified it.