

NATO Ministerial Meeting

various representatives of the different nations. From what we have read and from what has been said this morning, I would think Canada's delegation played a very important role in this regard.

Obviously there is some satisfaction to be taken from what was accomplished in spite of the fact that there is a great deal of insecurity and certainly indefiniteness about just what is going to be the future role of NATO. I think no single matter is more important than the question of whether there is going to be a nuclear deterrent in the hands of NATO. I am sure the decision of the British parliament yesterday, namely to support the government's recognition of an Atlantic nuclear force in place of what has been suggested by the United States, is of extreme importance, and I would have appreciated it if the minister had said more about that matter. Obviously there is a great deal yet to be done in relation to what action is going to be taken through NATO as it relates to the nuclear deterrent in Europe.

We welcome the statement which has been made about Cyprus. I think it is important that Canada continue her peace keeping role there, and I would hope that in this apparent lull in active hostilities some definite plan is being worked out for that island in the unfortunate situation in which it finds itself at the present time. Certainly a peace force such as there is now, is essential, but this arrangement cannot go on indefinitely, and I trust that everything is being done which can be done toward bringing the situation to some sort of satisfactory settlement.

There is one point on which I should have liked to hear more from the minister, and it is this. I realize it does not relate directly to NATO and its sphere of influence, but it has a definite relationship to world peace. This concerns Portugal and its role in Africa. The charge is constantly made that NATO equipment is being used directly or indirectly to support a very dictatorial colonial regime in two major parts of Africa, Angola and Mozambique, and that unless this situation is settled we will never have peace in Africa. Certainly NATO does have some direct responsibility here, particularly if it is true that the assistance which is being given to a NATO member country is being used for other purposes than originally intended.

This brings up the point, Mr. Speaker, that the role of NATO is definitely changing in the changing world in which we find ourselves today. Certainly the metamorphosis and development required to meet changing condi-

tions will result in some very definite changes in NATO. I hope when we reconvene we may have an opportunity for a full scale debate on these matters which centre around NATO, because certainly it is not only vital to the world situation but it is most important as far as Canada's role in that situation is concerned.

We note with interest the fact that another consulate general has been opened in Bordeaux, which brings up the point made by the Leader of the Opposition that Canada's developing role with France is likewise something which should be debated in this house because it concerns a very important policy regarding Canada's foreign relations.

While we realize there are many problems still facing NATO, NATO is nevertheless bigger and more important than these problems, and I think it has a very important future which will remain as important as it has in the past.

[*Translation*]

Mr. C. A. Gauthier (Roberval): Mr. Speaker, I just want to say a few words to congratulate the minister for the report of his meetings at NATO and the discussions in which he took part, because they certainly helped the cause of peace.

I think that NATO is the right organization for trying to gather all the nations which want to unite, first of all for peace and, more particularly, for standing up to communism.

During my last journey, I had the opportunity of seeing for myself the work accomplished by those 15 countries, an experience which made me very happy indeed, because I could see that those nations who want peace, and more particularly to work for peace are able to do a great deal, even if their population is not very large, as in the case of Canada.

Yes, Canada can accomplish a great deal by joining with those war giants. What strikes us in all those discussions is to always see the mighty prevail against us. It is all very well to say that in order to protect ourselves we must get arms, but what scares me most is that all those NATO discussions aim to provide everybody with weapons, while giving bullets to only one. This is dangerous, but I know that in his speeches, the minister has surely helped to relieve this tension and this threat by emphasizing that all countries, including France, should contribute to this peace-minded organization. I wish to congratulate especially the minister for his good work.