

Nuclear Proliferation

effort to be made. Far from that causing us to lose influence, I think the fact that Canada is prepared to forgo or postpone these kinds of deals will increase our moral influence.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Stanfield: The minister and others have said that we do not provide any aid to customers who have not signed a non-proliferation agreement. We may make a deal with a country that has not signed a non-proliferation agreement, but we will not provide any aid. I have to say to the minister that I do not believe that because the government is not prepared, for example, to disclose the terms under which these loans are made. It was not prepared to do it in the case of South Korea, and I do not think it will be prepared to do so in the case of Argentina. How can the government expect any of us to believe that these loans are made on purely commercial terms and that there is in them no aspect of aid to countries which have not signed a non-proliferation agreement when they want to enter into a deal with us?

History has indicated that Canada has been pretty anxious to make sales. I do not want to be unfair. I think that Canada has been sufficiently anxious to make sales, but it has not been sufficiently anxious to provide adequate safeguards, not in the case of India nor in the case of Argentina. I wonder if the government and those who are advising the government are not acting on the premise that these potential customers are going to get the bomb anyway, and Canada might as well get the business.

● (1700)

An hon. Member: Come on, you can do better than that.

Mr. Stanfield: I might be able to do better than that, but that is doing pretty well: that is putting it pretty bluntly.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Hees: Merchants of death!

Mr. Stanfield: This government has certainly adopted a very lofty attitude toward this House and, despite what the minister says, a highly secretive attitude. The one thing which disturbs me is not just that this government is very secretive about the whole thing, but that the so-called London club, the club of the countries which have nuclear technology, is being exceedingly secretive. The minister did not disclose the terms of the consensus today. I suppose he is not authorized to do so. Those countries which reached consensus have been so secretive that I understand even the IAEA, which is supposed to enforce these things in so far as they are enforced, has not been told the terms of the consensus reached by the London club.

What is going on here? Are we back in the days of Maeterlinck and the Congress of Vienna; or are we living in the latter part of the twentieth century, trying to deal with one of the gravest problems which has confronted mankind? How does the minister justify coming into the House of Commons unable to disclose what Canada has agreed to? I understand there was an exchange of letters in January incorporating this consensus. How does the Secretary of State for External Affairs justify this highly secre-

[Mr. Stanfield.]

tive approach? This consensus is either so inadequate that it will not stand the light of day, or there is something wrong with it. While the Secretary of State for External Affairs is certainly not responsible for all the deficiencies of international relations, or for all the deficiencies of international efforts to secure some agreement on this subject, surely he can come into this House and tell its members why members of the suppliers' club are ashamed of publishing the consensus they claim they reached.

We would like to see the consensus so we can judge whether it is in any way adequate, so we can see to what degree it is inadequate so we can see the total context, and so we can get a picture of the situation in which Canada is entering into contracts bilaterally; so we can assess the risks Canada is taking and so we can assess the risks to which the government of Canada is exposing the world and the possible shame and humiliation to which our government is exposing the Canadian people in making these deals.

Can we not have a little openness? Even if the government of Canada thinks, because it is elected to government, that it has to keep the opposition at a distance, even if it feels it has to keep the opposition in its place and exercise its traditional right to enter into an agreement and then place it before the House for ratification—even if it feels it has to maintain that kind of relationship, surely the government of Canada can insist, before its associates in this club, that it must be able to come before this House and the people of Canada and tell us precisely what the consensus is so that the people of Canada have the facts.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Stanfield: Apart from anything else, the Secretary of State for External Affairs is not discharging his duty to this House or to the people of Canada by being unable to come before this House and tell us what this consensus is so that we know what the facts are.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Guay (St. Boniface): Oh, oh!

Mr. Stanfield: Let us not have any more confusion thrown around by the government whip or by anyone else. I have read the safeguards put forward by this government. They are not the same thing—

Mr. Guay (St. Boniface): Oh, you did?

Mr. Stanfield: Let the hon. member keep quiet for a minute. If he would listen to me, or even to his minister, he would know that the safeguards proposed by the government of Canada is one thing, and the safeguards agreed to by this club of exporters is quite a different thing—and the people of Canada are entitled to know the safeguards agreed to by the exporters. Surely, even the hon. member for St. Boniface (Mr. Guay) can get through his head that the people of Canada are entitled to know that, because it would enable them to assess to some degree the risks the government of Canada is taking, the risks to which the government of Canada is exposing the people of Canada in exporting nuclear technology and nuclear reactors to South Korea, Argentina and all these other countries.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!