

Special Debate

out through the camels and out over the desert. We bumped along until we came to 60,000 people huddled in little bush shacks. They had denuded the sparse desert to put these together around a little mud hut that was not higher than four or five feet tall. In these little huts were largely mothers and children.

We took them the food that we had, the powdered milk, and they started pouring out of these little mud huts. They lined up 10,000 mothers and children but we only had two trucks. That is all there was. So they weighed each child as the mother stood there hoping that her child would make the weight per age according to the standard, and the child was given back to the mother again, again and again. She took them back to die.

When I see these things on television day after day I have to turn away because that reality is so intense for me. I came back to Canada and said we must do something about it. I talked to CIDA and was told that it was not a program country. I talked in the committee and I questioned all the then ministers at the time.

I have to say that there were one or two compassionate ones on the immigration side sitting across from me who did their best to help but it was not a country program. We could not add another country. It was not French. It was not British. It was just the poorest country in the world. We could not add it to the country program. We have not added it since.

They were dying then and they are dying today, and they have died by the thousands ever since then. They will keep on dying.

What do we have to bring to them? We bring them weapons and soldiers. Probably we have to do this to make the peace now, when we should have made the development funds available 20 years ago.

It is a tiny little country. There are only five or six million people. It has some mining resources. It has some fishing resources. It had an opportunity. Sure it has a repressive government so nobody wanted to touch it with a ten-foot pole back then. I met that supposedly repressive president, President Barre. At 2 a.m. he scheduled his appointments. Corrupt as he may or may not have been at least there was a semblance of order

that could have started the process and could have meant some hope.

Maybe this is hope that we offer today in the form of trying to make peace.

If we move all of this big equipment in there, and all of these people from all over the world, if we make the peace and then move out what have we done? What have we done? I urge that this House think of the vision that I have, it is so indelible in my mind and I have never felt this way before, of dying children, of mothers carrying their children who have to die. This is the beginning of an enlightenment, a recognition of the future of Somalia, and the beginning of the planning for the development programs, the free market system and so forth, and even democracy, that can give hope to Somalia.

I thank the House for this debate. I thank the members for their participation. Now let us have a comprehensive look at Somalia in its present and its future.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Pronovost): It being 9.26 p.m., pursuant to the order made earlier this day, the three hours provided for the consideration of the motion now before the House have expired.

It is my duty to interrupt the proceedings and put forthwith every question necessary to dispose of the motion. Accordingly the first question is on the amendment of the hon. member for Winnipeg South Centre.

Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the amendment?

Some hon. members: Agreed.

Some hon. members: No.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Pronovost): All those in favour of the amendment will please say yea.

Some hon. members: Yea.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Pronovost): All those opposed will please say nay.

Some hon. members: Nay.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Pronovost): In my opinion the yeas have it.

And more than five members having risen: