

# HOUSE OF COMMONS

Wednesday, May 30, 1984

The House met at 2 p.m.

● (1405)

## STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S.O. 21

[English]

### EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

#### WORLD MILITARY EXPENDITURES—SUGGESTED ONE-YEAR FREEZE

**Mr. Stan Darling (Parry Sound-Muskoka):** Mr. Speaker, the 1985 estimate for world military spending is \$1 trillion. A thoughtful news feature in *The Toronto Star*, dated May 16, quoted Canada's former ambassador to the United Nations and NATO, George Ignatieff, as saying: "It is terrible, absolutely mindless spending".

That same trillion dollars, if submitted to an international pool, would change the face of the planet. It could feed 650 million people threatened with starvation. It could help more than 100 Third World countries attain self-sufficiency. It could start a global clean-up of deadly pollutants, and put most contagious diseases under control.

The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization claims that only 10 per cent to 15 per cent of the trillion dollars could end world hunger. Could a freeze on military spending around the world for one year become the first project for the Canadian Institute for International Peace and Security?

Approximately 40,000 children die each day from hunger and disease and, for every one who dies, six others live on without food in ill health.

I realize the solution I propose is highly idealistic but no greater than cramming men into machines and blasting them into outer space.

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### NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION

#### LEVEL OF CANADIAN SUPPORT

**Mr. Ron Stewart (Simcoe South):** Mr. Speaker, this week the 16 Foreign Ministers of the NATO countries meet for the Alliance's thirty-fifth anniversary meeting. "Peace and freedom through deterrence" has been NATO's strategy since 1949, and it has been a successful one. This strategy has worked as a deterrent to Soviet aggression since 1949 because

NATO members have remained firm in their resolve, despite the best efforts of the peace movement, that pledging a no first use of nuclear weapons would encourage Moscow to launch a conventional attack on western Europe.

At the Atlantic Treaty Association conference last year NATO Secretary General, Joseph Luns, made the following observation:

It has always been an imbalance in weaponry and manpower, coupled with a desire to impose one's will on others by force, which has led nations to consider it worth the risk of beginning a war . . . The safest way to preserve peace is to ensure as close a balance as possible between the arsenals on each side.

That is the principle which must guide the Alliance in the future as we seek fair and verifiable agreements with the Soviet Union.

As Canadians we must live up to the goals to which we are committed. Estimates of defence expenditures as a percentage of Gross Domestic Product for 1983 place us at the bottom of all NATO partners with 2.1 per cent, just ahead of Luxembourg. Our NATO partners deserve and expect more from us in the future.

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[Translation]

### ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

#### ALLEGATIONS MADE BY QUEBEC MINISTER OF THE ENVIRONMENT

**Mr. Pierre Gimaiel (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of State (Mines)):** Mr. Speaker, last week I heard on the news that the Quebec Minister of the Environment was very proud of the fact that the provincial government was going to proceed with a program to renovate the copper smelter facility at Noranda. Surprisingly, the Minister announced the policy only a few days after the Hon. Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources of the Government of Canada had released a report on non-ferrous metals and smelters across Canada. For over two years, the Quebec Minister has failed to show any concern about the acid rain issue. Now that the Government of Canada has released an excellent and well-researched report, describing the policies and technologies that must be introduced to fight acid rain and upgrade existing technology in non-ferrous smelters, it is rather surprising to see the provincial government wake up all of a sudden and ask for federal assistance, especially since it was at the Federal-Provincial Conference, boycotted by the Quebec Minister of Energy and Resources, that the federal Minister asked for implementation of such policies.