

*Government Orders*

Article 2, subsection 4.1 on page 1 of the bill states:

The Governor in Council may establish a list of countries, to be called an Automatic Firearms Country Control List, including therein any country with which Canada has an intergovernmental defence, research, development and production arrangement—

The exact words of the bill say that those countries must be included on the list, but it does not say that the list is restricted to those countries. Where in fact the legislation differs from the speech of the minister is that while the list must contain those countries with which Canada has arrangements for defence, research, development and production of weapons, it is not restricted to those countries.

If the government was to amend the legislation to restrict the list to those countries, it would at least be an improvement. It would not be totally satisfactory, but it would certainly be an improvement.

As I pointed out, I do not know if this is simply a mistake in the drafting of the legislation, but it is certainly not acceptable as it is. As I said, it is wide open. I refer to the French version of the same section. It seems to be stricter and more limiting than the English section. In any case, it is too wide open and is unacceptable in its present form.

Under the present Canadian law no business can sell arms to another country without a permit from the Canadian government under the Export and Import Permits Act.

• (1550)

However, in the legislation there are no guidelines or limitations to which countries we can sell these weapons. It is left totally to the discretion of the government.

I must say that over the years, both Liberal and Conservative governments have spelled out policy guidelines which they have used in deciding to which countries armaments might be sold.

If you look at the most recent report on this subject, which is called the Export of Military Goods from Canada, 1990, the first annual report on this subject, the former Secretary of State for External Affairs sets out the guidelines in that report.

These guidelines are as follows. It stated that Canada would closely control the export of military goods and technology to (a) countries which pose a threat to

Canada and its allies. That is pretty evident; (b) countries involved in or under imminent threat of hostilities; (c) countries under United Nations Security Council sanctions such as South Africa; (d) countries whose governments have a persistent record of serious violations of the human rights of their citizens unless it can be demonstrated that there is no reasonable risk that these goods might be used against the civilian population.

Those are the guidelines set out by the present Conservative government for the sale of arms.

Those guidelines have never been submitted to Parliament for approval and they have never been legislated. They have not been legislated, nor have they been put in terms of a motion and debated in this House so that they could be approved.

We submit that this bill must be tightened to reflect at least the policy guidelines set out by the government in the paper that I just referred to.

We could, in this party, accept the sale of certain weapons to countries with which we have collective security agreements for defensive purposes and for peacekeeping. We certainly cannot accept the sale of these weapons to areas of conflict or imminent conflict or to areas where there are serious human rights violations.

In the Iraq-Kuwait War, 95 per cent of the arms used by Iraq were sold to it by the five permanent members of the Security Council. Ninety-five per cent of the arms used by Iraq came from those five countries which then later were at war with the same Iraq. It was a very sad situation which was decried by almost all the political leaders of the world, including our own Prime Minister, our own Secretary of State for External Affairs and many others.

It is an extremely ridiculous situation when we sell a country arms and it in turn uses those arms against us. That shows us the ludicrousness of the arms trade.

In addition, during the Iran-Iraq War, the first gulf war which took place just a few years ago, 28 countries sold weapons to both sides. Twenty-eight countries made money from the death and destruction rained on both sides in that war, a war which went on for nine years. Over 1 million people were killed.