

enormous effort to enable forces of different nationalities to work together for a common purpose. Of course, NATO is supported not only by a common view of life, but a wonderful record of success. I find it extraordinary that an international institution like that has been so successful in achieving its main purpose to the benefit of all mankind on either side of the former Iron Curtain.

NATO is a force in being, and in this difficult and contentious world, a force in being for a good purpose is something we should not discard and something we should not give up.

This brings up the question of Canada's association in NATO. I am sorry that our token force of 1,000 soldiers will be removed from NATO in the course of the next few years, but it is probably an inevitable process. We will see the Dutch soldiers retiring to the Dutch frontier and we will see the Danish soldiers do the same thing. The Americans will cut their contribution in half anyway, if not more. There will be a substantial readjustment of armed forces within NATO. The old patterns will not necessarily be needed or justified. In spite of my nostalgia for our troops in Germany, I recognize that this is not the end of our association with NATO. It is far more important for our NATO association that we should retain even on this continent the rapid response force that is needed to give some evidence of our capacity to deal with military problems in the NATO area, should that arise. The fact that we have air forces, transport and some troops earmarked for that obligation seems to be a contribution which, on consideration, the NATO Alliance will regard as helpful and productive.

● (1300)

There are a lot of changes going on. We cannot rule out any new reorganization of forces or any new policies that might be adopted. The out-of-area policy of NATO is up for challenge. The Germans will have to give that consideration, because they say their constitution prevents out-of-area action under the new dispensations. We are looking for solutions. We know there are problems; we should approach them with caution and not drop the bone in our mouth or the bone that we see in the water, if I can invoke that old fable of Aesop's. No one but me probably remembers that.

Collective security, which is Canada's real interest in the world these days, is our fundamental foreign policy; collective security. NATO is one of the best, if not the best, instrument that we have to continue to promote our collective security. I say nothing to take away from the United Nations. I have great hope that the United Nations will be even more effective in the future than it has been in the last little while. Our contribution to peace making is one of the great jewels in the Canadian foreign policy crown. We must continue to be prepared to maintain our status in that connection.

So, honourable senators, this is a thumbnail sketch of some of the issues that were on the table, first, at the economic committee meeting and then at the general NAA meeting. But it boils down to this: I am glad that we have a special Senate committee to look into defence in Canada. Senator Molgat has been keen about that. I am glad that is he persistent in his

effort because it is very worthwhile. One of the first items on the agenda of that committee when it gets to work would be to consider these changes in NATO to decide how we can advise the Government of Canada best to deal with its foreign policy in the future.

**Hon. Gildas L. Molgat (Deputy Leader of the Opposition):** I wonder if senator Roblin would permit a question. The order reads the North Atlantic Assembly. He spoke about that, but he also spoke about NATO. Would he refresh my memory? Exactly what is the relationship between NATO and the North Atlantic Assembly?

**Senator Roblin:** I must confess that I mix these two acronyms up in my conversation. Undoubtedly it is confusing. I thank my friend for the query.

NATO consists of the governments. NATO is an organization of governments of which Canada is one. Its primary purpose was to deal with the Russians in days gone by but it is now seeking a new mandate.

The organization which I attended is called the North Atlantic Assembly. It is an assembly of parliamentarians from NATO countries. Parliamentarians from NATO countries meet every so often to discuss NATO problems. They have an influence on the policy that NATO itself lays down. NATO is the governments' and the executive body in charge of the armies and in charge of the action. The North Atlantic Assembly is the parliamentary body to which all the countries in NATO send delegates. It forms policy proposals that are presented to the NATO governments for their consideration from time to time.

**Senator Molgat:** At NATO now do the Russians, and the other previous Warsaw Pact countries in general, send parliamentarians to the general assembly as well?

**Senator Roblin:** That is my fault for mixing up NATO and the North Atlantic Assembly in my conversation, because the people I am talking about came to the North Atlantic Assembly as representatives of the Parliaments of those countries.

**Senator Molgat:** The Parliaments? Okay.

**Senator Roblin:** Just as I went as a representative of the Parliament of Canada. Marshall Lubov was a case by himself. He just represents himself at the present time. He was invited to come so he came.

This meeting of such a widespread group of nations is the North Atlantic Assembly. NATO has its own contacts with these new countries but I am not talking about that connection at all. I hope that I clarified my position.

**The Hon. the Speaker pro tempore:** Honourable senators, if no other senator wishes to speak, this Inquiry is considered debated.

**The Hon. the Speaker pro tempore:** Honourable senators, pursuant to rule 136 (8), I must interrupt the proceedings so that we may proceed with Royal Assent.