

no longer in the news, observers, politicians and the general public often tend to take the situation for granted, although at this very moment, Soviet soldiers are shooting at Afghan citizens and in fact, the Soviet authorities are muzzling Poland, while now, the record also includes bodies floating on the waves and mourning relatives.

Mr. Speaker, the Canadian authorities will continue their efforts. I would like to draw a parallel—perhaps not as serious as the death of ten Canadian citizens—but in January 1978, when Cosmos 954 disintegrated in the skies above our country, the Soviets took exactly the same position. They refused to acknowledge their responsibility just as they are doing in the present case. They did not even want to admit that the satellite was theirs. However, Canada did not despair, did not get discouraged and decided to maintain its position. Pessimists thought we would never get compensation for damages. However, by dint of determination and constant pressure, with a lot of patience and tight negotiating, Canada obtained a satisfactory settlement of \$3 million. I can assure the House that in the case we are concerned with this evening, the Government is a hundred times more determined to obtain fair compensation for the victims' families. Actually, I hate to use the words fair compensation for ten innocent victims, and no amount of money can replace a father, a mother, a sister or a brother.

But at least I hope that the Soviets will have the kindness and generosity of trying to alleviate the hardships of those who were stranded on the ground.

Mr. Speaker, I am drawing a parallel with 1978 to show that we have no intention of giving up, to show that this unbreakable wall of the Soviet Union may be cracked, and to say that with Canada's leadership and many other countries' support they will not be able to resist much longer, they will not be able to lie outright to the world and forever expect no reaction. I should think that many speakers this evening will want to extend their condolences to the families and urge the Government to maintain its pressure until certain conditions are met. First, the Soviets should at least have the decency to acknowledge their responsibilities, indeed to confess before the international community, Mr. Speaker. We saw what happened at the Security Council: those hypocrites used their veto to prevent an inquiry into these incidents.

Mr. Speaker, I think that in light of the motion of the Hon. Member for Oshawa (Mr. Broadbent) it is imperative to develop practical and useful procedures to avoid a repetition of such barbaric behaviour. Finally, no one will be satisfied in Canada and in the free world until fair compensation has been given to the victims, because the human aspect remains the most significant in the events of the past few days. For a few months now a Soviet propaganda campaign was trying to make us forget Afghanistan and Poland, but in fact their resorting to military force has proved once again that we cannot really take any chances. And that incident has also taught us the frailty of the word freedom.

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Deep in my heart, Mr. Speaker, I am convinced that all Canadian citizens realized after hearing this tragic news just how frail it was and to what extent the political system and indeed the aggressiveness of certain nations could imperil the existence of many people. I hope that this incident, this accident or this murder, if you will, will give food for thoughts to the community of nations and to all political leaders throughout the world who have weapons, particularly deadly weapons. I think that we should all examine our conscience and that as long as the Soviets themselves do not examine theirs they will always stand guilty in our eyes and nothing will change our verdict of guilt.

Mr. David Kilgour (Edmonton-Strathcona): Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise in this most serious debate on a subject of concern to all Canadians. And at the beginning of my remarks, I would like to commend all the Members from both sides of the House who have been in attendance until now. There is in my view a minimum of partisanship and a maximum of good will, a sense of national unity if you like, and above all a determination not to exasperate cold-war tensions, and also a concern for the victims of such a hideous crime as was said earlier.

● (2150)

[*English*]

The timing of this tragedy has been referred to by my colleague from York-Peel (Mr. Stevens) as well as others. I would simply repeat that in my view this is possibly the worst moment imaginable for something like this to have taken place. As all Hon. Members know, negotiations are now under way in Geneva with respect to medium-range nuclear missile weapons in Europe. My colleague the Hon. Member for York-Peel read from an article in yesterday's *New York Times*. I would refer to another passage in the same article which indicated that on this issue, namely the question of medium-range missiles, the United States might be prepared to drop its previous demand for over-all global equality in the deployment of medium-range missiles in favour of equality only in Europe. The article also adds that the Soviets might be prepared to consider dropping their demand to include French and British missiles in the medium-range category.

The talks are obviously at a crucial stage because the deployment of American Pershing missiles in West Germany will start in December if some settlement is not reached. All of us here who want a lasting peace in the world are thus saddened, and I think the best word is vexed, that this tragedy may in one way or another not prevent the deployment of nine out of 108 Pershing II missiles on December 15, 1983 in West Germany.

Other speakers have talked about the human side of this incident. I am sure there is no one here tonight who is not—

[*Translation*]

—read the many articles on that tragedy. Everyone wonders why such a tragedy has happened a few days ago. Maybe the