

It is evident that the end of the cold war has not brought a new era of peace and stability into Europe but, rather, it has created great opportunities and great risks for Europeans, their cousins, their friends, and their allies.

For the millions of Canadians who have roots, family members or friends in western and eastern Europe, the ties are very close. They want desperately to see the whole of Europe at peace, unified and economically strong. We all do.

However, rebuilding or, rather, reinventing the strangled political institutions and economies of eastern Europe will be an enormous but essential task if the potential for conflict is to be curtailed.

I know other members of this House and in the other place have taken a very active interest in the CSCE over the years and in recent months. They have been discussing and promoting an expanded role for the CSCE and for parliamentarians within that CSCE process.

In particular, I commend the hon. member for Labrador, the hon. member for Brant, and Senator Duff Roblin, all of whom have played a key role and have been dedicated along these lines.

I think there has been a consensus for some time that parliamentarians must expand their contacts with our new colleagues from eastern Europe and the Soviet Union. We must come together to share our knowledge, experience and impressions of the promise and dangers inherent in the changes that are transforming Europe.

• (1230)

Within the North Atlantic Assembly, Canadian and other NATO parliamentarians have been keeping a close watch on the evolving security situation in Europe and maintaining regular contact with representatives of the new democracies in Europe, who are as concerned as we are that co-operation and collaboration be institutionalized, that it be effective and forward-looking and that Canadians and Americans be as actively involved as possible.

### *Government Orders*

For Canada, the CSCE process and the role it will play in developing new methods of confidence-building and co-operation between former adversaries are very crucial.

With an effective parliamentary assembly, Europeans and North Americans will be able to share their ideas and expertise on military issues, on arms control issues, on economic and technical co-operation, on the environment, human rights, the development of political pluralism, and in fact, the whole range of issues that can divide or bring together peoples or countries.

I would also like to express the hope that all members of this House will continue to look for creative and effective ways to continue to make Canadian viewpoints and concerns known to our European and American colleagues.

If we fail in this endeavour, we risk losing influence and valuable friends. We also risk missing an opportunity to help shape a safer and more peaceful world.

Canada is renowned for its role as an international peacekeeper. With this in mind, we can help perform the tasks of mediator in the European community.

The CSCE can, in turn, play a pivotal role in securing political, economic and environmental confidence. We must all strive toward this worthy end. I know all members of this House will want to join.

**Mr. Len Hopkins (Renfrew—Nipissing—Pembroke):** Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise to speak on this motion. It is certainly broad, but it encompasses many things that are of great issue in international affairs today.

I would like to compliment the Secretary of State for External Affairs for putting this on the Order Paper for discussion in this House. International affairs are not much different than one's own domestic affairs or indeed, one's own family affairs. Those members of the family who talk together and discuss matters tend to get along very well. The more we talk about issues in our own country on a co-operative basis, the better we get along. It becomes very important in international affairs where many crucial decisions have to be made that nations talk to each other on a family basis as well.