

*Special Debate*

The reunification of married couples has to be brought about by the Department of Employment and Immigration. We urge the government to take the necessary steps to bring this unification about.

To conclude, what we are witnessing tonight is an important step in the development of Canada's foreign policy. Having crossed the threshold from peacekeeping to peacemaking, we are seeing a new dawn emerging in international relationships. We are seeing probably the transfer of sovereignty from individual nations to a larger body called the Security Council in the United Nations. This may bode well for the world community but it is also fraught with uncertainty and hardships.

**Mr. Len Hopkins (Renfrew—Nipissing—Pembroke):** Mr. Speaker, first of all I want to thank the hon. member for Davenport for giving up some of his time, and I would like his constituents to know that I am very grateful to him for that.

I want to put a personal note on this debate tonight because I live three miles from the Canadian forces base gate in Petawawa where 900 troops are now ready to go to Somalia. It is just a short time ago that I went up to say goodbye to 150 that went off to Cambodia, another 50 off to Kuwait to explode the munition dumps and the shells lying around in that country after the gulf war.

Canadians have tremendous expertise to offer the international community. This exercise upon which they are about to embark is going to be a great challenge and a much different challenge than we have been used to having within the United Nations ambit.

I want to say something about our personnel in the Canadian forces and to follow up on the comments that have already been made. As Canadians we cannot continue to be the great moderation force and the people who go out and build bridges among groups, to keep peace in countries, to tone down international fires so they are not going to become big fires.

• (2130 )

We cannot do that unless we have the numbers of personnel in the Canadian forces to do it. I want to say tonight, very strongly in support of the Canadian forces, that if there ever was a time in history, Canadian history and world history, when Canadians have the talents they

have to offer the international community and to tone down trouble spots in the world, it is now that we should be supporting a stable number in the Canadian forces to go out to do this job.

Our Canadian forces are professional soldiers. They are professional politicians because they know how to make deals, and they are professional diplomats because they can get along with almost anybody.

I want to say a word about military families. When we send these troops off to these various places in the world to keep the peace we forget about those who have been left behind. Our hearts must go out to the families of these soldiers who are going away at Christmas and others who are serving this country around the world in peacekeeping missions under the UN. Let us remember them. Those families are also contributing to Canada.

I want to say that this Parliament of Canada, tonight and in the days ahead, must support our Canadian forces in numbers, in morale and in realistic terms. Then we will have the ability to send soldiers out into the world to do the great things on the international scene that must be done to maintain peace in this world. We can no longer allow little battles here and there in this world to simmer into big battles and lead into a third world war. It is inhumane, it is just impossible to even imagine it.

If civilization is to survive we must cultivate the science of human relationships, the ability of all peoples of all kinds to live together in the same world at peace. That is what our Canadian peacekeeping forces and our Canadian military are all about. Let us all support them in their efforts across this nation and be proud of what they are doing for this country in every trouble spot in the world to which they are sent.

**Mr. Robert Wenman (Fraser Valley West):** Mr. Speaker, since I was a child I can remember pictures of Ethiopia and Somalia, the two poorest countries of the world. I can remember those terrible pictures and those images. This is not a new problem. It did not start with this particular round.

In 1980 I was made aware by the Somali community of the crisis at that time. I got together with a non-governmental organization and we raised \$200,000. We got some milk powder and we headed over to Somalia. We landed in Mogadishu and then we drove for eight hours