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do so provided that our role was acceptable to the parties concerned. However, this initiative was soon overtaken by events and was superseded by the efforts of the Secretary General of the United Nations.

I have indicated to the British Foreign Secretary, to the Foreign Minister of Argentina, to the United States Secretary of State Haig, to the Foreign Minister of Peru, and to the Secretary General of the United Nations, that Canada would be willing to facilitate any negotiations, or to participate in any agreed settlement arrangement, if the parties concerned felt that Canada could play a useful role. That offer still stands; but no useful purpose would be served by seeking to involve ourselves in the current negotiating processes so long as they offer some hope of success, as they are presently being conducted.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. MacGuigan: Mr. Speaker, I want also to say a word about our bilateral relations with Argentina. As part of our policy to enhance our relations with the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean which I announced in March 1980, we have been endeavouring to develop a better degree of correct and cordial relations with Argentina. We have made it clear that although we do differ profoundly with Argentina in respect of its unilateral and aggressive action in trying to resolve this territorial dispute with Britain, we would hope nevertheless that when the present crisis has been resolved we can continue the process of developing these relations to our mutual advantage.

We have no quarrel with Argentina per se, but we do respect, and we insist upon the respect of others for, the rule of law. We profoundly hope that reason will prevail within the government of Argentina. We hope that they will accept the will of the international community and will abide by the Charter of the United Nations and with the specific requests of the Security Council Resolution 502 which calls for an immediate withdrawal of Argentinian forces from the Islands and a resumption of negotiations between Britain and Argentina to resolve the matter peacefully through negotiations in accordance with the United Nations Charter.

Mr. Crosbie: What about the contract? Will you table it?

Mr. MacGuigan: Mr. Speaker, the war in the Falkland Islands has raised among other issues the red herring, I might almost say the red flag, of nuclear politics. This flag has been waved ferociously and piously by members of both the opposition parties.

The considerations are twofold. First there is the question of the reliability of Argentina as a nuclear partner. Second, there is the question with respect to the war. Let me take the question of the war first. The opposition has attempted to capitalize on the natural concern of people about both of those issues. With respect to the war, this is not a matter which has any relationship to the hostilities. The nuclear bundles will not even be delivered to Argentina during the likely currency of hostilities. The nuclear reactor will not be in operation for

quite some time after that. All of this, of course, is according to a contract which Canada entered into many years ago with the government of Argentina.

Mr. Taylor: Do you believe that?

Mr. MacGuigan: The hon. member for St. John's West, as I understand him—and again I do not know whether it is the party's view or not, but it seems to be his view—suggests that we should add this sanction to our sanctions. Let me point out, Mr. Speaker, that no other country has done this. Germany has not done it. The European Community has not done it. I mention Germany in particular because they are a supplier of nuclear material and technology to Argentina.

Mr. Crosbie: Lead the way.

Mr. MacGuigan: Indeed, the BBC program, which was recently copied by the CBC, said they had reports that led them to fear that it may be less than a year before Argentina joins the nuclear club, and they went on to say that it would do so with the help of modern German technology. There is no accusation with respect to the supply of Canadian technology. Canadian technology is not only not readily adaptable but is well protected by safeguards and, of course, by international inspections.

Mr. Taylor: Canadian technicians are down there right now.

Mr. MacGuigan: When the opposition imposed sanctions with respect to the invasion of Afghanistan, which the hon. member for St. John's West calls the "invitation" to the Russians to enter Afghanistan, they related, of course, to a limitation; they were not a total embargo. When sanctions were imposed with respect to Iran and other countries, they dealt with future contracts. That is the normal posture with respect to sanctions, that if they apply they apply to future contracts. That is exactly the rule that we are following here, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Crosbie: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the hon. minister if he will permit a question before he finishes his remarks.

Mr. MacGuigan: At the end, Mr. Speaker, I will take a question if I have the tolerance of the House and my time has expired.

That is the military aspect of the question, Mr. Speaker. The other aspect is the suitability of Argentina as a nuclear partner. I have already indicated, Mr. Speaker, that we have the bilateral arrangement by which Argentina has undertaken not to use the nuclear reactor for any purposes other than peaceful.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. MacGuigan: In addition, we have the right of inspection by the International Atomic Energy Agency as soon as that reactor comes into effect.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!