

*Government Orders*

That is why in the European theatre, Canada has been active and continues with NATO, including the political clause that Prime Minister Pearson ensured was included in the North Atlantic Treaty, in the European Common Market and the possibility soon for us to have a more formal link with the European Community. The third element that is evolving, CSCE, is an amazing arrangement of conferences and meetings and agreements that represent a collective effort at the highest political levels to pursue a common interest.

• (1140)

Canada has participated fully in the CSCE process from the outset, and we are committed to it because of a basic objective, as I have already said, to enhance security and the confidence that we have a peaceful future.

We want to see barriers broken down that have divided people. We want to facilitate the freer flow of information, freer flow of ideas, the freer flow of people.

[*Translation*]

Our interest and involvement in Europe go beyond the major sacrifices Canadians have made in the past. They are not based on any vague reminiscences of our European roots. They reflect a very concrete estimate of the importance of Europe to Canada and Canada to Europe, and the importance of the European—North Atlantic community as a whole within the global context.

Europe is more than a geographical concept. It contains the vast majority of democratic countries on this planet. It contains the vast majority of countries with market economies. It contains the vast majority of countries in this world that recognize that a pluralistic democracy and the rule of law are essential to safeguard all human rights and all fundamental freedoms.

That is the context in which we should see the CSCE. The CSCE, a series of conferences and agreements involving 32 European nations as well as Canada and the United States, was one of the main catalysts of the changes that have taken place in Europe. The CSCE should be the instrument of choice for building the future order of a new and strong Europe. It is the

drawing board where Europe's new architecture will be designed.

[*English*]

To design with this architecture a new Europe, it is essential to build a CSCE which is both flexible and capable of growth and adaptation. We want to see from the Canadian perspective a CSCE that is both pan-European and trans-Atlantic, as well as a forum within which a new co-operative security framework can be built.

This morning I want to touch on two aspects of this, Mr. Speaker. The first will deal with CSCE institutions. In this respect I will mention briefly that the member of Parliament for London—Middlesex, who is chairman of the Canada—Europe Parliamentary Association, was recently invited to attend the meeting organized by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. That meeting was held in Strasbourg. Its purpose was to discuss a parliamentary dimension of the CSCE. The resolution before us refers to the creation of a CSCE parliamentary assembly.

The member of Parliament for Halifax West, the Parliamentary Secretary to the President of the Treasury Board, will be speaking shortly in greater detail about this dimension. I am sure other members will as well.

Just to note, Mr. Speaker, the unavoidable absence of the member for London—Middlesex. The hon. member wanted to participate in this debate but is representing the Prime Minister elsewhere at this very moment.

When he participated in that meeting in Strasbourg, he expressed concern in the course of the discussions that Canada, as a full member of the CSCE, should not be left on the margins of any type of parliamentary assembly, nor should there be any indication of a weakening of the Europe—North America relationship.

The resolution that was adopted at the conclusion of their debate supported a formula for an assembly of Europe. The hon. member, in fact, abstained from voting on that resolution because he had had no opportunity to discuss this here in the Canadian Parliament. He was concerned to ensure that any new assembly would be a legally distinctive entity from the Assembly of the Council of Europe. Therefore, this opportunity we have