

*North-South Relations*

countries, the means to help achieve harmony and make development a success. The trips of the Prime Minister as well as my own trips have convinced me that we stand to gain in every way from building closer ties with french speaking countries like Canada. In closing, Mr. Speaker, I should like to emphasize that many Canadians, missionaries, volunteers, businessmen, have worked and invested everywhere throughout the francophone world. Whether they come from Quebec, Western or Eastern Canada or Ontario, all those Canadians have made a significant contribution to the co-operative efforts made by the Canadian government. In addition, I am proud to note that the Canadian government policy with regard to the international francophone world is non partisan and involves all parties in this House. Indeed, I want to congratulate the former secretary of State for external affairs and his government who, in this regard, were as active as the preceding government and also, in this field, performed in exemplary fashion.

I intend to pursue my work especially in Africa, I urge my hon. friends, ministers and hon. members to go there and concretely foster ties that are not only dear to us but let us admit it, useful in every way. I have had the opportunity to discuss topics which are of common interest to ourselves and our African hosts in a very positive way, such as the United Nations, the law of the sea, disarmament, trade, peace in the world, first and foremost on African soil, because Canada is implementing a policy of co-operation, mutual aid, assistance and friendship with those countries, in short, one of concrete political presence. Mr. Speaker, we must strengthen our role in support for and contribution to the international francophone world and our co-operation with all the countries involved. Every part of Canada will be the richer for it.

● (2030)

[*English*]

**Hon. Allan B. McKinnon (Victoria):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to congratulate the hon. Minister of Regional Economic Expansion (Mr. De Bané) who has just spoken. I assure him that as puzzled as we might be as to how it falls under his responsibilities in the Department of Regional Economic Expansion to tour Africa, most of us on this side are glad he did because his interests are well-known and his sincerity is unquestioned in this area.

I listened with interest to all the speeches thus far today. I think the speech of the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) was perhaps very thoughtful. I will read it carefully tomorrow. I rather think his coach, Senator Davey, perhaps told him to give a flat speech today, not to hit any high points. I was surprised by the number of absentees on the other side. That party usually has a very, very good turnout for the Prime Minister's remarks, yet today I counted only 42 members, which means that there were over 100 missing. Considering he only speaks perhaps once a year in the House, I would have thought they could have done better for him.

As usual I was pleased with the remarks of the hon. member for Kingston and the Islands (Miss MacDonald). She and I have been working together in the closely allied areas of external affairs and defence for several years without a single difference. We both seem to know exactly where the fine line is which divides the two departments. Of course the hon. member for Edmonton South (Mr. Roche) is much like the Minister for Regional Economic Expansion, his credentials are such that everyone listens to him with a great deal of attention on this subject.

The hon. member for New Westminster-Coquitlam (Miss Jewett) gave a very interesting speech. Her answer to the hon. member for Nepean-Carleton (Mr. Baker) was particularly apt when she said that it was the policy of the NDP to withdraw from NATO. I hope the leader of the NDP will be here tomorrow to give his version of it. I understand that the hon. member was speaking this time for the party, not the way she spoke a year and a half ago when she and her leader were speaking out of opposite sides of their mouths about the same party. I had the foolish notion that the NDP settled these matters at its annual conferences, but it is nice to have it settled already.

Of course the policy of withdrawing from NATO would upset some of their party's colleagues in Norway, Belgium, Denmark, West Germany and France. I would have thought the NDP would have a link with international socialism, but perhaps not. In any case, I look forward to hearing the hon. leader of the NDP tomorrow. The last time he spoke in the House he came out four square for closure; I think the House leader of that party has been somewhat pale ever since. He gave a rousing speech in support of the Prime Minister's use of closure in the Constitution debate. Perhaps tomorrow will be as interesting as today.

The Canadian defence policy is tied inextricably to the foreign policy. Because of our geographic location, economic interests and cultural ties with the western world, we have a foreign policy which has as its cornerstone the maintenance of a defence force and a military alliance with 14 other nations of the western world.

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization provides us with increased security and economic benefits. Also it provides us with a voice in international decision-making, if we care to use it, sometimes we appear not to care to use our voice. These benefits do not come to us very cheaply. Membership in the NATO alliance carries responsibilities with it. Unfortunately, while we have been only too eager to accept the advantages of our alliance, we have been lax in shouldering our share of the burden. In 1978, the members of the NATO alliance agreed to increase defence spending in real terms to 3 per cent annually over a five-year period, ending in 1984.

Canada currently spends 1.7 per cent of its GNP on defence. The only country in the NATO alliance which spends less on defence is Luxembourg. Even Portugal, with all its economic problems, manages to devote 3.4 per cent of its GNP to defence. In terms of per capita spending, in United States funds Canada spends only \$166 compared with the United