

Government Orders

act more effectively. This conference should relaunch "the spirit of San Francisco", the lofty idealism of the framers of the UN charter. Second, I call upon our government to vote for the comprehensive test ban this week in New York. Third, I urge the government, in the light of the human cost to women and children and others in the Third World, that as we prepare our budget, we maintain CIDA's budget, our development assistance to those least able to help themselves.

Hopefully, out of this agonizing time we can advance concrete proposals for both strengthening the United Nations, to which we are all committed, and world peace.

Mr. Dan Heap (Trinity—Spadina): Madam Speaker, I thank the hon. member for Waterloo for his speech because it reflects, I know, much more than five years of work that he has been doing in these matters for peace and for disarmament for the countries which are burdened with what we call the Third World debt and for aid to the needy.

I fully support the question that he has launched in this House as to why Canada opposes an amendment to the partial test ban agreement that would convert it into a comprehensive test ban agreement. I agree with him that had we got such a comprehensive test ban agreement before, at least the present dreadful situation in the gulf would be a little less dreadful.

I would like to ask him what he thinks about the situation in the gulf where it is reported that more than 1,000 nuclear warheads are sitting, mostly on American warships, but not all of them. We do not know whether Saddam ever produced any. We are fairly sure that he did not, and that his capability to do that may have been destroyed.

We do know two worrisome things. One is that there have been accidents with nuclear warheads. All the countries that possess them have had experience of accidents. Second, the concentration of nuclear warheads in such a small area could increase the danger. We know that last night the President of the United States made a statement that is rather open-ended. He said: "It is not like Vietnam. This time we are not going into the fight with one hand tied behind us." He did not explain how he means that one hand was tied behind him in Vietnam, but for many people we do know that there was talk of using nuclear weapons in Vietnam and that

fortunately that possibility was rejected by the country that could have used them, the United States.

• (1140)

My question to the hon. member is, has his government asked for a commitment from the United States and the others who possess the nuclear weapons that are in the gulf, a guarantee, that under no circumstances will they be used offensively in the gulf?

Mr. McLean: Madam Speaker, I thank the hon. member for Trinity—Spadina for raising an important issue. The government has assured the foreign affairs committee, of which I am a member, that nuclear weapons are not to be used in the gulf.

One of the arguments and concerns about the importance of taking military action was to prevent the further development of nuclear weapons on the part of Iraq. Therefore, if this is the argument for force at this moment, and many of us had hoped it would not come to this, surely logic follows that we should be seeking a comprehensive test ban at the United Nations.

Canada has through the years had this as an objective of our foreign policy. But the question is of putting it into overdrive rather than going step-by-step, and responding with 118 countries which recognize that if Iraq soon has these, what about India and Pakistan? What about Argentina and Brazil? What about a world loaded with nuclear weapons? Into which corners will Canadians be called time after time as regional conflicts break out? What about a situation where the UN does not have machinery to respond to these and we go at them in an *ad hoc* way? So, part and parcel of the order that we all seek in our world is to have renewed machinery, to see that we use the UN in a dialogue way, in a treaty-making way, in a negotiation way, and that we start today, even as we participate in the gulf, with dynamic leadership in the UN to see that this kind of incident does not occur again and that we redouble our efforts.

Madam Deputy Speaker: The period for question and answers is now expired. There was a five-minute period of question and answer. Resuming debate.

Mr. Ron MacDonald (Dartmouth): Madam Speaker, I think it is fair to say that most members of the House today are feeling somewhat uneasy and concerned about what is going on around us. Yesterday, when I was prepared to speak on the motion before the House, I was having a great deal of difficulty. I was concerned about a