

branch, Colonel T. G. Bowie is his deputy, and Miss Jean Macpherson an officer. I believe she was secretary to the Canadian delegation to the IPU and, from what I have heard, a very competent one.

The third development, which I understand His Honour will be greatly involved in, is a conference of Commonwealth Speakers, the first ever to be held. I understand that His Honour has sent out invitations to the Speakers of the various upper chambers to attend. We are all proud to learn that His Honour will be taking a very prominent part in that first conference of Speakers of the Parliaments of the Commonwealth.

I think another indication of the extent of parliamentary concern in international affairs is the fact that very recently, for the first time, we have had backbenchers taking off from Canada and other countries, and flying thousands of miles to show their concern over the problems of a comparatively small tribe on the west coast of Africa. I suggest this is a recent development and is one which is growing in importance. I hope that such action will be given greater encouragement, with more opportunity to report, and that in some way our parliamentarians will be given the ear of the Government.

Reverting to the resolutions I mentioned earlier, the next will interest Senator Lamontagne particularly, because the second of the four important items on the agenda was:

Parliament's role in the elaboration and control of national science policy.

A very important point made in the resolutions is that individual parliamentarians have a responsibility in respect of the science policy of our governments. The conference was saying: "You cannot just leave science policy to the Government. It must be the concern of all parliamentarians". Parliamentarians must be concerned particularly in such matters as that to which the honourable Leader of the Government (Hon. Mr. Martin) referred the other day, the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. He brought it before us, as one of the Houses of Parliament, but I do not know to what degree it will be debated. Speaking for myself, I am sorry that it was brought before us in this rather perfunctory or casual way. Very often no attempt is made to develop debate on these matters. Perhaps this is our own fault in that we do not take advantage of the opportunity.

The Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty is an indication of the continuing leadership Canada is giving in this broad field, but I have my own reservations about the haste with which Canada signed it. I would have preferred that we waited until all the depository powers had signed it. I have some reservations about the fact that we have tied our hands in respect to other nations in the matter of the civilian development of nuclear explosions.

Hon. Mr. Martin: I should like to tell the honourable senator that I fully agree with him. We should discuss this matter. I raised it the other day in the hope that we might have a discussion of it. One of the functions of the Senate, in my opinion, is that of discussing such treaties. I do not think the Government of Canada has concluded a more important international engagement in a long time, and there is nothing to prevent our having a full discussion on it.

Hon. Mr. Grosart: I agree with the honourable Leader of the Government. I am criticizing myself at this particular moment. I know that I should have risen to speak at that time, but I was not ready. The fault is mine, and I am criticizing nobody but myself. This is a matter I should have raised at that particular time, and I mention it now only in passing.

The honourable Leader of the Government is well aware, I am sure, of the civilian aspect to which I refer, but I repeat that I am convinced that the early Canadian signing, even though it may have a potential of some serious limitations in the future, is in keeping with the image of Canadian foreign policy for which the honourable Leader is entitled to a great deal of credit—the image of Canada taking the lead among the nations on anything that will promote peace.

I have very little more to say on these resolutions, but I should like to draw attention to the third and fourth resolutions which indicate, as I said earlier, that the discussions at these meetings of parliamentarians concern the most vital problems facing the world today.

The third resolution reads:

Colonialism, neo-colonialism and new forms of racial, religious, political and economic discrimination.