

Independent immigrants, including skilled workers and business immigrants, are a priority for this government. The 1994 plan announced by my colleague, the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration, increases levels for applicants with labour market skills by more than 10,000.

To support the priority given to independent immigrants, we want to do focused promotion and recruitment abroad to position Canada in the independent skilled worker and business immigrant market.

BOSNIA

USE OF AIR STRIKES—CANADA'S ROLE— GOVERNMENT POSITION

(Response to a question raised by Hon. John Lynch-Staunton on February 10, 1994.)

Canada is encouraged by recent developments regarding the situation in Sarajevo. Both sides have placed some of their heavy weapons under UN control and we hope that progress will continue.

Canada would not be participating in the strikes; aircraft from the USA, the UK, France and the Netherlands are in place and have the capability to conduct air strikes should they be necessary.

In addition to contributing a presence of approximately 2000 troops in the former Yugoslavia, Canada also has two ships and two maritime patrol aircraft helping to enforce the UN embargo. Canadian crews are also serving on a rotational basis aboard NATO Airborne Early Warning and Control aircraft in support of enforcement of the No-Fly Zone in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Twelve Canadian Forces personnel are serving in the European Community Monitoring Mission.

Our continuing contribution to the ongoing peace process and humanitarian relief effort must not be overlooked. Canadian aircraft are participating in the humanitarian airlift to Sarajevo. Canadian Forces officers are also participating in the UN Commission of Experts and have conducted war crimes investigations in theatre.

It would be an injustice to suggest that Canada is doing anything less than its fair share in working to alleviate suffering and to bring about a peaceful resolution to the current conflict in the former Yugoslavia.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

MOTION FOR ADDRESS IN REPLY—DEBATE CONTINUED

On the Order:

Resuming the debate on the motion of the Honourable Senator Gigantès, seconded by the Honourable Senator Cools, for an Address to His Excellency the Governor General in reply to his speech at the Opening of the First Session of the Thirty-fifth Parliament.—(5th day of resuming debate)

Hon. B. Alasdair Graham: Honourable senators, may I begin by offering very sincere congratulations to the Speaker, the Honourable Senator Roméo LeBlanc, who brings to this very important position a wealth of experience and a sense of integrity and fairness which I am confident will serve us well in this place.

I should also like to offer best wishes to the new leadership on both sides of the chamber. While I anticipate vigorous, spirited and forceful debate on all matters of importance, I detect a desire for understanding and cooperation in advancing those issues which are in the best interests of all Canadians.

Yesterday's mail brought a most timely reminder from the Secretary of State for Veterans, the Honourable Lawrence MacAulay, that Canada will be remembering major events of World War II in 1994 and 1995.

I have also been reminded frequently in the last two or three weeks by that most distinguished champion of veterans affairs in this place, Senator Jack Marshall, that 50 years ago this June, Canadian infantry divisions took heavy casualties on the beaches of Normandy. The battle honours on our regiments' colours will tell that tale in perpetuity, a tale in which Canadian divisions were the solid core of a multinational effort to free Nazi-occupied Europe. On June 6, 1944, that sacrifice drove a shaft of light across the continent.

Now, as we gather in a new Parliament, we do so in the flickering shadows of that light, and hopefully in the dawn of a new age and a new day full of promise and prosperity. We must never forget those sacrifices as we contemplate the unprecedented domestic and global problems which face the world today. For as Canadians hit the beaches of the past with courage as their sustenance and freedom as their guide, so too must we, in turn, assault the beaches of the new age.

The enemy arsenal is obviously vast and diversified. Just ask Canadian peace-keepers now in Bosnia to explain some of its global dimensions. Fuelled by famine, demagoguery and despair, by civil war and disease, the weapons concealed in the cliffs of the future appear particularly horrifying. The pictures of burning villages and mutilated bodies in the Somalias and Bosnias of this world frighten all of us who live in what might be called gentler places.

We search for sanctuary in this peaceable kingdom. Yet we know deep in our hearts there is none. There is no place to hide in our shrinking world. There are no barricades in this global