

mittee, to which I was assigned last fall. This is one of the aspects of the NATO operation which is not by any means secret, and which provides excellent public relations on a worldwide basis for NATO.

Focusing on one particular point, and without going into detail, I would like to refer to the subcommittee of the Scientific Committee, which is called the Subcommittee on the Major Concerns of Modern Society, where quite a bit of research on a variety of those concerns is being carried out by teams of countries. At the moment there are 18 such teams conducting research on energy, geo-thermal activity, conservation, pollution, and so on. Eighteen different subjects are being dealt with, Canada being directly involved in six of them. I refer honourable senators to what has already been put on record.

Also for the record I would like to mention at this point the fact that the Secretary General of NATO, Mr. Joseph Luns, was in Ottawa last evening, the guest at a dinner given by the Canadian members of the North Atlantic Assembly. We had, as we are wont to say, a full and frank exchange of views. The Secretary General was good enough to field questions, to which he replied very candidly, and we got the feeling that his views on Canada's contribution to the defence aspects of NATO are much less acerbic than they were six months or so ago.

**Senator Flynn:** Thank God.

**Senator Lafond:** Thank God, and, to some extent, thank the government also, because the views of the government have changed considerably in the last six months.

**Senator Flynn:** That is exactly what I was referring to.

**Senator Lafond:** The approach and the views of the government with regard to this country's defence contributions to NATO, with regard to the acquisition of material, and with regard to the development of new defence policies respecting not only NATO but other defence commitments of this country, have evolved considerably over the last six months.

**Senator Flynn:** Bravo.

**Senator Lafond:** It seems to me that we are learning of this from statements by the Minister of National Defence, and other spokesmen speaking on behalf of the government of Canada, that have been made abroad. Hardly any such statements have been made in Parliament, but some have been. Those that were made in Parliament, I submit, were made in the other house. It is my contention that in this house, representing the generation that we do, there is a great reservoir of experience, knowledge and interest in the field of matters military. On both sides and in every corner of the house I see a good number of people who were senior officers, and who, though against their wish, waged war, knew what it was, is, and is going to be, and it seems to me that we do not have enough opportunity to be informed about, or to be in a position to discuss, defence policy with our government, whatever its political appellation may be.

I suggest, therefore, honourable senators, that through discussions between the Leader of the Government in the Senate, the Leader of the Opposition in the Senate, and the chairman of our Foreign Affairs Committee, some means should be devised by which the Minister of National

Defence could appear periodically before that committee, either in public or *in camera*, so that we may have briefings, and full and frank discussions, on what our defence situation is, where we are going in this regard, and how we are going to get there.

**Hon. Jacques Flynn:** Honourable senators, I do not want to delay the conclusion of this debate. I would merely like to commend Senator Lafond for having said that the government has changed its attitude towards NATO in recent months.

From the time the present Prime Minister came to office in 1968 up until only recently, Canada's attitude towards NATO was, to say the least, unenthusiastic. I remember well a 1968 meeting of the parliamentarians from NATO countries where the climate was one of uncertainty as to what the Canadian position would be towards NATO.

I congratulate Senator Lafond also on his suggestion that the minister be asked to appear before the Standing Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs. We have reason to take a vital interest in this alliance, since the Senate has more time to do this than the other place has, and I think it is up to us to look into the role Canada plays in NATO.

With regard to the government's recent change in attitude concerning NATO, I wonder if Senator McDonald would agree that this might have come about as a reaction to the tactics of the U.S.S.R. and its allies, willing or unwilling, who, for the past year or so, have been trying to win diplomatic victories by aligning themselves with the Third World on all possible occasions. I am thinking, for example, of the resolutions adopted in London by the IPU with reference to the Middle East, and the resolution adopted at the United Nations with regard to Zionism, and other incidents of the same kind, in which the countries of the Warsaw Pact have consistently used the tension in the Middle East, and the attitudes of the Third World, to try to isolate the western nations, and especially those belonging to NATO. This trend, which to me is quite obvious, suggests that the NATO alliance is more than ever needed for the purpose of defending Canada; in fact, for defending civilization, because there will be no winner of a third world war.

● (1510)

**Hon. Raymond J. Perrault:** Honourable senators, I appreciate very much, as I think we all do, the contribution to the discussion on foreign affairs made by the Leader of the Opposition. Canadian foreign policy, since 1968, has been one of prudence and diligence in pursuit of peaceful initiatives around the world. This has been consistent, I think, with the record of Canadian governments for many, many years—

**Senator Flynn:** Not everybody thinks that.

**Senator Perrault:** —including that period when the present Leader of the Opposition in this chamber served with distinction in an earlier government.

The increase in Canadian support for the North Atlantic Treaty Organization does not mark a radical departure from the pattern established by the government in the past and by preceding governments.

The Leader of the Opposition has alleged certain efforts by members of the "Warsaw Bloc" to exploit situations around the world. I think the government's position is that,