

*Government Orders*

I suggest in the circumstances that is frankly immoral. When you add to that the costs involved of maintaining in Canada the support for the troops in Europe, as much as 40 to 50 per cent of our defence budget goes to maintain this so-called commitment to NATO. It is in Canada's interests, I submit, that we end Canadian and American military participation in Europe and that we leave to Europeans the responsibility of specific security concerns and dealing with the remaining security concerns in Europe.

We should participate in the discussions as to the framework and we should continue to have a place at the table in view of our long historic relationship with Europe, but we do not need NATO to do that. There are other forums under which that input can be had.

Let me deal if I can with the nuclear deterrent issue. It is argued, as I suggested, that somehow if American troops are left in Europe that will be some form of protection for Europe in retaining the efficacy of the American nuclear deterrent.

Let me suggest that the time has come for us to squarely address the immorality and impracticality of the whole nuclear deterrent strategy. Impracticality. The Soviet Union and any other countries that are equipped to deliver some form of nuclear assault on Europe or anywhere else in the world have already discovered more than once that that is an idle threat. It is not a threat which can be used. It is an expensive threat. It is a danger to the environment of their own country. It is a threat which will in fact not be exercised.

Even if that argument is not bought, we are left with the issue of the remaining American deterrent. Clearly, if whatever is left in the Soviet Union, when it all shakes down, there will be no will in the Soviet Union to deploy any nuclear weapons against western Europe or Europe as a whole. The Soviet Union is part of Europe.

When the CSIS committee was in Washington earlier this year, we met with senior CIA officials and some ex-officials from the CIA who had kept themselves well informed of events. Their view was that the Soviet Union

would become part of Europe economically and politically within the next 10 years. That was March. Today that 10-year period seems too long.

It seems to be very clear that with economic investment in Europe, with the political changes in Europe, with the investment in the Soviet Union, with the political changes in the Soviet Union, with the co-operation that has been shown now as part of the response to the gulf crisis by the Soviet Union, France, the United States and Great Britain, that the Soviet Union is now responding in precisely the same way to these international events and with the same interests. They take different positions on specific aspects, but it is entirely co-ordinated and the interests are viewed the same. There is even no argument left for maintaining the nuclear deterrent.

This leaves us, then, with how we are going to get to where we want to go in Europe. The CSCE provides a framework for those discussions, and this motion encourages that direction. It is important that the government go a step further than it has been prepared to go so far and say within the councils of the CSCE that Canada views as one objective of the discussions now under way and continuing that NATO be wound down. The Warsaw Pact has been wound down. The time has come to develop as a matter of policy that NATO should be wound down.

Canada should serve notice that it will no longer participate in NATO, that NATO is obsolete and has no place in international and regional discussions, and that Canada will withdraw its troops from Europe because we have better things to do with the money that is being spent in maintaining the contingent in Europe. This is an important policy and one which, if the government does not accept it today, it will be obliged to accept tomorrow. It would be helpful if the government would move more quickly rather than wait until events overtake it again.

It would be helpful if Canada would show some leadership in continuing the momentum toward a world that is a safer place, a world in which disarmament has finally come to pass, and a world that no longer relies on