

I have heard from both opposition parties that this is somehow a maverick resolution, that this is somehow something that is illegal. This is beyond my comprehension. As intelligent as the individuals we have in this House may be, their combined intellect and their combined desire for justice does not exceed that of the United Nations assembled to bring about order to this world.

Two generations of Canadians, because of geography and because of our neighbours, have grown up believing that Canada's role in restoring order is that of peacekeeping, which Canada has done and will continue to do in a very efficient manner. Despite Canada's fortune in geography and neighbours, we cannot forget the history that Canada has. Even in peacekeeping there are severe risks.

The Leader of the Liberal Party, in his address yesterday, said: "What did Canada do at the invasion of Cyprus? It did nothing." I want to remind the House that in that invasion, Canadians were there as peacekeepers. They became involved in a confrontation. Two Canadians from the first commando in Quebec died keeping the peace. Two Stars of Courage and eight medals for bravery were awarded to Canadian men and women who were there keeping the peace in Cyprus.

Another thing that I found strange about the address yesterday by the Leader of the Official Opposition was the statement that it has been the policy of Canada, since 1956, only to enter into military combat under the United Nations. That belies the proud history of his party in bringing Canada into NATO, bringing Canada into a NORAD agreement, and bringing Canada into a world body such as the United Nations.

A country structured like Canada cannot provide its security independently. That is why collective security for the people of Canada is the only kind of security that can be procured. That was recognized 40 or 50 years ago: If Canada wanted to be secure we had to join with others in providing collective security.

### *Government Orders*

We forget sometimes that the first aim of the United Nations was to spare succeeding generations from the scourge of war. The preferred means is a peaceful, diplomatic resolution to conflict. The United Nations founders recognized, shortly after 1945 following the Second World War, that it could not just be a place to talk, that it had to be able to act.

Canada has been very active in talking and supporting in the United Nations but we have to be prepared to act. Everything that we have said, through successive governments of different political parties, has been to use the institution to bring about a peaceful resolution to world conflict. If it cannot be brought about peacefully, the United Nations found a way in its resolutions to bring it about by collective security, by joining together, using force and waging war.

• (1730 )

I have some difficulty when I have to reconcile in my own mind why someone would suggest that only 50 per cent or 60 per cent of the population of Canada are against war. I know a lot of Canadians. I know a lot of people on both sides of the aisle in this House. I know some of them well. I do not know any of them who want war. I do not know a Canadian who wants war. Most of all, with my responsibilities for the Canadian forces, the people who least want war are those whose duty and responsibility it falls upon to fight.

There comes with the responsibility of governing and the responsibility of service in the Canadian forces the responsibility to make decisions. The Government of Canada has to make decisions. If we do not take that responsibility and understand it, then the people who voted for us, whether they believe today that the people who voted for us voted improperly, voted for us to make a decision as a government.

We have made a decision not inconsistent with decisions made by previous governments and governments of different political parties, but we made a decision. That is what comes with the responsibility of government. That is what comes with the responsibility of leadership and that is what comes with the responsibility as a Minister of National Defence to advise his cabinet and his Prime Minister. It is not easy. But, when you ask for advice and you ask the men and women who serve and who are professionals in their careers, if the government makes a decision, can you fulfil a commitment made by the government, the answer is yes.