

The Address—Mr. Trudeau

Mr. Trudeau: I heard with my own ears the Hon. Member for St. John's West (Mr. Crosbie) describing me as a new Chamberlain and offering me his umbrella. All I can say is that if it were described as I am told, I would tell the Right Hon. Member for Yellowhead (Mr. Clark), the former Prime Minister, that he is welcome aboard the political ploy. There is still room for another messiah and we can work together. I am sure we will because it is a very important subject.

I am glad that the 48 nations of the Commonwealth have supported this effort. I am very proud that the Secretary of State for External Affairs was able to get the agreement of his fellow foreign ministers in Brussels to participate at the political level at the Stockholm conference on disarmament and to bring forth counterproposals on the CDE. Those were two of the proposals that I had made. I can say on the five-power nuclear conference that there is agreement among several of them that there should be a five-power nuclear conference. They pose different conditions and that will be a matter of negotiation, of trying to make sure they all accept each other's conditions or that those conditions are changed. I think the essential thing is that we have now a statement by political leaders of NATO, the political leaders of the 48 countries of the Commonwealth and several other political leaders that I have seen in the Middle East and in China, that indeed the politicians must take responsibility for searching for peace and for pushing for peace.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

[*Translation*]

I think I have said enough to show that in the few examples... Oh, no, before leaving the subject of foreign relations—

[*English*]

Before leaving the subject of foreign relations, I think I must take up the challenge given to me by the Leader of the Opposition this morning when he said that he thought I should state courageously that we stood for Israel's right to exist as an independent nation. I will state it again and again and again. I stated it in the Middle East when I talked of resolution 242, which says precisely that. It says that Israel has a right to exist between secure and defined borders. I do not think to my recollection, that I ever talked about Palestinian rights. It is part of government policy that they have a homeland on the West Bank and Gaza. It is part of government policy that there should be a withdrawal of Israeli settlements on the West Bank. I do not think I have ever stated publicly that the Palestinians have a right to be considered, that they must be at the centre of any peace proposal, peace solution, in the Middle East. I do not feel ashamed that I have said that at least once.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Trudeau: I fail to see how any honest critic can fault me for having said that once in public when I have stated in public so many times our position on Israel. It seems to me the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Mulroney) is quarrelling.

● (1500)

[*Translation*]

He is quarrelling with me over a rather insignificant issue when he blames me for not repeating in the same breath what I said so many times about the right of Israel to exist. When I was asked by Palestinian newspapermen what was our position on the Palestinian issue, I stated it very simply, but they were dissatisfied. If the Leader of the Opposition wants to see the newspaper headlines, I can assure him that the position of the Government on the Palestinian issue, on the PLO more precisely, led to the condemnation of those newspapermen and those newspapers in the Near East. In other words, it is not always easy to please everyone in such cases, but I can tell the Leader of the Opposition that this Government does not have to take any lesson from anyone—either from him or from Near East newspapermen—with respect to our hope to see Israel live in peace.

[*English*]

I have touched upon most of the subjects raised by the Leader of the Opposition. I have attempted to show that I understand those in Canada who say that it is time for a change. There has been high unemployment in Canada. Interest rates have caused great distress among small businessmen, home owners and many other people. I can understand people saying, "Well, this Government has brought us through some hard times. We are going to tell it that we are pretty darned sore at it. We are going to vote against this Government because it was not able to save us from the 35 million unemployed situation in the world, it was not able to protect us from the 20 per cent interest rates in the United States, and it was not able to ensure that the country was completely shielded from the woes the world has known in the past several years since two oil shocks and high interest rates". I can understand voter dissatisfaction. I must say that this Party is sorry that it was not able to ensure a shield for the country against the economic woes of the world. I can understand a lot of voters saying that it is time for a change. That is something we will have to take into account but, as I end this statement, I want to repeat and plead with them to ask themselves what they would change to.

I feel like asking the Leader of the Opposition, what we are all in politics for? Is it just to sit on the Treasury benches, just to bear the title of Minister, Prime Minister or member of the governing Party? We all make some sacrifices to be in public life. We all do it because we believe that our particular Party—that one, that one, or this one—has an idea of the kind of Canada it wants to build and where it wants to see the country led, and feels that by its participation in the debates in this place it will help lead the country in that direction. We have not heard any directions from the Leader of the Opposition this morning. We know the woes he wants to avoid. We have not heard solutions to those woes. Earlier I was calling that Party a social Darwinist party. I wonder if I could refer to Engels, because I know the Tory Party would be outraged if I associated it in some way with Karl Marx's friend. However,