

Kuijpers

occasions in the past. This new Parliament can therefore but ask what account the Council of Ministers — which is where the final decisions are taken — and the British Government take of this Parliament's independent decisions. I do not want to repeat what has already been said about violence. In the final analysis, there is only one fair way of preventing this unnecessary violence in a part of one of our Member States: the restoration of sovereignty over Ireland to the Irish and the withdrawal of the British occupying force, which is still in Northern Ireland.

Mr Kyrkos (COM). — (GR) Mr President, the execution of the young Turk, who was sentenced four years ago, is the first one for 16 months and was carried out with the acquiescence of the so-called Turkish Parliament, elected in the supposedly free elections. That Parliament has washed its hands in blood. I totally support Mr Sakellariou's motion, and while we are debating human rights and rightly protesting about journalists being prevented from carrying out their duties we ought to keep in mind a young Turk who climbed to the gallows and lost his life and that there are dozens of others awaiting the same fate. Would not also this Parliament be washing its hands in the blood of the Turk were it not to rigorously condemn what is going on in Turkey? Or perhaps we should carry on backtracking in relation to events in Turkey, closing our eyes when we have rigorously condemned the imposition of military rule because a powerful lobby — in this place as well — is out to persuade us that events in Turkey are developments along the road to democracy.

Colleagues, in the name of the most elementary of human rights we implore you to adopt the Sakellariou resolution.

Mr Ulburghs (NI). — (NL) Mr President, referring to the question of human rights in Turkey, I wish to say that I visited Turkey between Christmas and the New Year as a member of a Belgian parliamentary delegation. I was privileged to meet a number of lawyers and former prisoners, mostly women. I visited the notorious Mamak prison in Ankara, where 500 young people are serving sentences for political crimes. They all told us about the torture and inhuman treatment they had suffered. I therefore consider it important for there to be an open debate in the future on this question of human rights in Turkey. However, I shall withdraw my amendment No 662/1 because I have been assured that Community aid to Turkey will be suspended until human rights are restored.

Mr Hume (S). — Mr President, in response to remarks by both Lady Elles and Mr Paisley, I would like to point out to this House that, in supporting the motion for a resolution tabled by Mr Lalor and others, we are not discussing the activities of terrorist or paramilitary organisations in Northern Ireland, whose

atrocities and activities we all condemn without reservation. What we are discussing is the attitude, policy and activities of governments in dealing with particular situations, because if governments ever reduce themselves in their methods to the level of terrorist organisations, then they are promoting terrorism themselves on a very wide scale.

On behalf of the Socialist Group, I unequivocally support the motion for a resolution tabled by Mr Lalor on the question of plastic bullets. It is completely in line with the resolutions put forward by this group at the last part-session and, indeed, in the last Parliament, and it is completely in line with the resolution adopted last week by the British Labour Party.

We are referring to the use of plastic bullets in Northern Ireland. But nobody should be under any illusion about the fact that Northern Ireland is being used as a pilot area for the use of this deadly weapon. Indeed, the miners in Britain may discover that they are to be its next victims, and if that happens, then the people of Britain will understand what I am talking about: about the effect of such a weapon on a community, because the use of that weapon has done more to increase support for violent organisations than anything else. If you look at the tragic death of Sean Downes, does anybody doubt that the international coverage given to that was an immense propaganda victory for the Irish Republican Army and for the forces that support violence in Ireland?

The plastic bullet is a lethal weapon. Those are not my words, they are the words of a British Home Secretary who is now the deputy Prime Minister of the British Government. He used those words to defend the fact that plastic bullets were not being used in England, Scotland and Wales. Yet this lethal weapon is being used on the streets of Northern Ireland. Most civilized societies have abolished the death penalty for very serious offences. Anybody who uses a plastic bullet to control a demonstration in the streets knows that there is a serious probability of the death penalty being administered. Indeed, twelve families in Northern Ireland have the certainty that the death penalty was administered — many of them acknowledged as totally innocent people engaged in no criminal activity of any description.

Mr President, this Parliament has before condemned the use of these bullets. Let us do it again without reservation. And at last would the British Government please listen to concerned objective opinion in the European Community, of which it is a member?

(Applause)

Mr Schwalba-Hoth (RG). — (DE) Mr President, we are talking about current violations of human rights, which must be condemned, but are forgetting that the day before yesterday nearly all the freedoms were sus-