

We are also proud of Canada's record of humanitarian assistance to Lebanon given with a view to helping those parties directly affected.

Likewise, Canada has provided peacekeeping troops, both at the beginning of the mandate of the United Nations Forces in South Lebanon, UNIFIL, and in our ongoing participation in the United Nations Truce Supervisory Organization, UNTSO.

In view of the latest developments, we have taken, or are taking further measures to help in a practical way.

- as already mentioned, the Prime Minister is communicating to President Mitterrand Canada's support for the latest French initiative and our willingness to be helpful. In this connection we are also pursuing discussions with the permanent members of the Security Council.
- on April 17 I announced tangible Canadian support for Lebanon in the form of a grant of \$500,000 in response to a special appeal by the Red Cross. This money will be used to provide food, clothing, medicine and other necessities to those who have suffered from the latest events.
- Lebanon, along with Canada and France, is a member of la francophonie and at the forthcoming summit in Dakar, we will be exploring other practical ways to increase international support for Lebanon.
- in view of the current situation, the Minister of Immigration has decided that removals of unsuccessful refugee claimants to Lebanon have been temporarily suspended pending clarification of the situation there.
- moreover, because of the deteriorating situation in Lebanon an immigration officer has been sent to Cyprus to help ensure that our capability of processing Lebanese immigration applications is not interrupted by the current events.
- our embassy in Damascus remains in as close touch with events in Beirut as is possible, given the situation. Indeed one locally-engaged member of the staff was in Beirut as recently as April 10.

Mr. Speaker, with these and similar measures we continue to do what we can to offer practical help to Lebanon and the Lebanese people. Ultimately, however, what is required is a political solution.