Madam Speaker: Just in case the enthusiasm of people who are in the galleries continues, I must remind them that they are not allowed to applaud or to manifest in any way.

I suppose we have passed the time at which we can have Statements by Members. I will immediately go to Question Period.

Mr. Benjamin: Why?

Madam Speaker: The Standing Orders are quite clear.

Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton): With consent.

Madam Speaker: Is there unanimous consent?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Lalonde: No.

Madam Speaker: Does the House agree that we go to Statements by Members?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Some Hon. Members: No.

Madam Speaker: There is not unanimous consent.

• (1430)

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[Translation]

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

U.S.S.R.—COMPENSATION SOUGHT FOR RELATIVES OF VICTIMS IN DOWNED KOREAN AIRLINER

Mr. Brian Mulroney (Leader of the Opposition): Madam Speaker, my first question is directed to the Right Hon. Prime Minister.

[English]

As the Sea of Japan continues to give up the dead, a result of the recent tragic and terrible international incident, ten Canadians having been killed, could the Prime Minister inform the House and the people of Canada as to the action he has initiated to ensure that massive and exemplary damages are secured on behalf of the grieving families, in the interest of the Canadian people?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for External Affairs): Madam Speaker, in reply to the question raised by the Leader of the Opposition, I should begin by expressing the deep sympathy of Canadians to the bereaved families of the Canadians who were so tragically killed in an unjustified act of murder by the Soviet airfighter.

We have, as part of our response to this grave incident, conveyed a note to the Soviet Embassy indicating that we

Oral Ouestions

would be presenting a claim for compensation. That note was delivered both in Ottawa and in Moscow, and we are currently preparing further steps to support that particular effort to secure compensation. That effort will be pursued not only bilaterally but also with the United Nations and at the upcoming meeting of the International Civil Aviation Organization to be held in Montreal later this week. That effort to secure compensation will be joined by other aggrieved parties, of which Canada is one, including the United States and South Korea.

SAFETY OF CANADIAN CITIZENS VISITING SOVIET UNION

Mr. Brian Mulroney (Leader of the Opposition): Madam Speaker, I have a supplementary question. Could the Prime Minister inform the House, given the fact that so many hundreds of Canadians are presently in the Soviet Union, and given the impact of the commercial air blockade which will be launched against the Soviet Union, of what action he has taken to ensure the safety of all Canadians presently in the Soviet Union, and what contingency plans he may have in regard to transportation when urgently required by them?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for External Affairs): Madam Speaker, I think that is a very good question. Since we terminated the regular scheduled Aeroflot flights between Moscow and Mirabel, the fate of Canadians who would normally have travelled back to Canada by these Aeroflot flights has been a worry and a concern. We have extended all assistance to these Canadians, and where they will make other arrangements, as they must, to return to Canada with other airlines, we will assist them financially so that they will not be out of pocket because of this particular incident.

Up to the present there has been no danger whatsoever to these Canadians, and the authorities in Moscow up to the present have co-operated to ensure that they will be able to return to Canada by other methods.

CONTENTS OF DIPLOMATIC NOTE

Hon. Sinclair Stevens (York-Peel): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Secretary of State for External Affairs who indicated to the House that a note securing, hopefully, compensation for the victims of this tragic incident has been delivered in Ottawa and in Moscow. Would the Minister be good enough to table the note so that all Canadians know exactly its terms and what is being sought on behalf of the survivors of these victims?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for External Affairs): Madam Speaker, I do not think it is normal practice to table these international exchanges, but there is something that I can tell the Hon. Member at the present time, namely, that we indicated to the Soviet Union that we had proposed to establish a claim against the Soviet Union arising from the airliner incident. We have not put any quantification on that claim up to the present