

We have advised our allies to ascertain at all times that retribution is justified and to act with great caution in this area, especially in connection with the Canadian presence, we emphasized and re-emphasized this aspect as recently as yesterday....<sup>4</sup>

Several hours after the US attacks on 14 April, the Prime Minister's Office made the following statement:

The Government of Canada has been fully consulted by the United States all along and was notified in advance of its intentions with respect to Libya.

We accepted President Reagan's statement that Libya was involved in the perpetration of terrorist attacks....

The U.S. response to a very serious provocation appears to have been limited and aimed at terrorist installations.<sup>5</sup>

On 15 April the PMO released another statement in which the Government's concern over the safety of Canadians in Libya was reiterated. The statement also noted that while "the United States' intention was scrupulously to avoid civilian targets, we profoundly regret the loss of innocent life." "As the government has made clear", it continued,

terrorism is...an evil which all members of the international community must work to eliminate. The United States was seeking to do precisely that and Canada supports that objective.

We are concerned, however, lest the cycle of violence continue...We urge, therefore, a renewal of effort by all concerned to reach negotiated settlements to the tensions that have long plagued the Middle East.<sup>6</sup>

On the same day, Prime Minister Mulroney noted in the House that the Government had worked to ensure that the issue of terrorism be on the

<sup>4</sup> Commons Debates, 11 April 1986, p.12124; see also p.12131.

<sup>5</sup> PMO, Release, 14 April 1986.

<sup>6</sup> PMO, Release, 15 April 1986.

<sup>7</sup> Commons Debates, 15 April 1986, p.12242.