

*Air Transport*

Passage of this bill will ensure that Canada is in a position to comply fully with the terms of the Bonn declaration. The forthcoming Ottawa summit will again provide an opportunity for the seven governments to reaffirm their commitment to combatting terrorism. It is noteworthy, I believe, that the previous government in effect confirmed a decision already taken by the former Liberal government that special legislation should be enacted to implement the declaration. This is therefore not a partisan issue.

The efforts of Canada alone are not enough to resolve this problem, but if all governments were to act in the same spirit, the situation would be greatly improved.

**Hon. Flora MacDonald (Kingston and the Islands):** Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to have this opportunity to lend my party's support to the implementation of Bill S-7. It is a bill that addresses only one part of a greater, over-all evil that has left no nation in the world untouched. The evil to which I refer is that of international terrorism.

The philosophy of violence that is a trademark of terrorists and their organizations has been, and continues to be, repugnant to any nation which adheres to a civilized, democratic and law-abiding way of life and equally towards peaceful co-existence. Terrorism, however, is not a new phenomenon to any country. There are many types and examples of terrorism that one could cite from history, but they pale into insignificance when compared to the nature or style of today's international terrorism.

It is a phenomenon that knows no borders, respects no laws—be they domestic or international—and is marked by indiscriminate targetting, the senseless loss of lives and a total lack of morality.

Perhaps, Mr. Speaker, terrorism is a sign of our times, for we live in a world riddled with strife and violence, caused in part by political, cultural, economic and religious division. Because of these facts, it is vital to world security that the international community resists terrorism in a unified and effective approach.

● (1240)

The subject matter of Bill S-7 deals with the unlawful seizure of an aircraft and its passengers, a criminal act more commonly known as "hijacking". Hijacking acts have been committed by a variety of terrorist groups or individuals. No member in this House needs reminding that in such hijackings violence is always used and, tragically, has often resulted in the taking of innocent lives.

As the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. MacGuigan) has said, Bill S-7 owes its existence to the declaration on hijacking adopted at the Bonn summit. On January 17, 1978, the seven nations participating in that Bonn summit issued a declaration which became known as the "Bonn Declaration on Hijacking". That Bonn declaration was reaffirmed at the Tokyo economic summit in June, 1979.

This declaration highlighted a problem that has confronted nations who are attempting to combat terrorism in all its

forms. The problem is that certain nations which have been designated by hijackers as their final destination have in the past failed or refused to prosecute or extradite the hijackers and, in some cases, have welcomed them as heroes.

With this rather distressing conduct of certain nations the ensuing problem has been that those countries committed to combatting terrorism have been consistently frustrated and hamstrung by the action of these nations in their refusal to co-operate, refusing to abide by the principles of international law or any civilized domestic code of law.

These actions do not offer much hope for some form of peaceful global co-existence. These actions only cultivate frustration, mistrust and a sense of futility. How can law-abiding nations hope to combat terrorism effectively when the offenders know full well that they will not face prosecution or extradition by certain states? It is imperative that these criminals be given notice that they will find no safe haven throughout the world and will ultimately face full and just punishment for their criminal activities.

There is a serious responsibility placed on the nations which believe in this goal of deterring terrorism not only to support international declarations such as the ones adopted at The Hague, Montreal and Bonn, but in addition to bolster them with domestic legislation having a specific aim toward pressuring other nations into punishing terrorists who unlawfully seize aircraft, threaten innocent crew members and passengers and sometimes murder them. Bill S-7 will serve, hopefully, as a notice to those who support terrorism that Canada intends to honour its international commitments.

As stated before, the campaign against terrorism by all law-abiding nations must be founded on both a collective and individual desire to attain that goal. I believe quite sincerely, Mr. Speaker, that the debate on this piece of legislation should transcend partisan politics because passage of this bill is crucial to Canada's international reputation.

Adoption of specific legislation such as Bill S-7 will undoubtedly give clear authority to the government and, of course, greater certainty when dealing with hijacking incidents. In the case where a hijacking occurs and Canada finds a state in default of the legislation, Bill S-7 will enable the government to respond and act with greater speed. Needless to say, Sir, action and, to a lesser degree, speed are two important elements required to give this commitment credibility and effectiveness.

I would like to say that the passage of such legislation is long overdue. Admittedly, the frequency or rate of hijackings has decreased somewhat, but now is not the time for nations to become apathetic or lethargic in their efforts toward deterring terrorism or, in this case, hijacking.

Terrorism, unfortunately, will continue to be practised by a number of misguided individuals, organizations and states. It is our duty and responsibility now to stand up and be counted among those in the world who are opposed to such evil practices. It must be made clear to terrorists that no state will entertain any demands, that terrorists' acts will be universally