

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Monday, June 5, 1972

The House met at 2 p.m.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

STATEMENTS ON MASSACRE AT TEL AVIV AIRPORT AND MEETING OF NATO FOREIGN MINISTERS

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I should like to make two statements today, a very short statement that I have been asked to give on the events at the Tel Aviv airport and also a statement on the meetings of the NATO Council in Bonn. I have discussed this with the opposition parties who are agreeable that I give the two statements together and comments can be made on both at the same time.

I am sure all members of the House shared my feelings of shock and horror when they heard the news of the shooting incident at Tel Aviv airport on May 30. Such acts of senseless violence directed against innocent civilians can only be deplored by reasonable people everywhere. In my absence from Canada, Senator Martin on May 31 conveyed to the Israeli Ambassador in Ottawa the government's feelings and expressions of sympathy to the bereaved families of the victims of this horrible crime. I know the House would wish to join me in expressing sincere condolences to the family of Mrs. Subach of Montreal, who was killed, and to her daughter, Miss Mimi Subach, who was wounded, our wishes for an early recovery.

The ambassadors of Israel and Lebanon have made known to us the views of their governments on this episode. We have taken note of a number of public statements, among them one by the president of Lebanon last Friday condemning the Tel Aviv airport incident. In addition, our ambassador in Beirut has been instructed to convey our views on the incident to the Lebanese government.

This tragic episode is another instance of acts of violence by extremist groups which are unfortunately becoming all too common in various parts of the world. Such acts are particularly dangerous in the Middle East, and I hope that this one will not lead to an escalation of violence there.

Since the incident, new security measures have been put into effect in Canada. My colleague, the Minister of Transport (Mr. Jamieson), would be glad to give information to the House on these measures.

Mr. Speaker, I would now like to give a report on the NATO Foreign Ministers meeting, from which I have just returned, in the capital of the Federal Republic of Germa-

ny, situated at the crossroads of Europe. In terms of time, too, the Bonn meeting took place at a crossroads in the evolution of East-West relations.

The NATO meeting coincided with the completion of President Nixon's talks with Soviet leaders. Secretary of State Rogers reported to his colleagues in Bonn on this historic visit and, in particular, on the strategic arms limitation agreements. We all welcomed these agreements as an important turning point in efforts to curb the nuclear arms race and enhance international security through nuclear arms control. Along with other ministers, I welcomed the commitment of the United States and the Soviet Union actively to continue negotiations on further limitations. I also expressed particular appreciation to the United States for having regularly consulted its allies in the North Atlantic council throughout the negotiating process.

On June 3, shortly after the NATO meeting, the Foreign Ministers of the four powers signed a final protocol bringing the Berlin Agreement into force. At the same time, representatives of the Federal Republic of Germany, the Soviet Union and Poland exchanged instruments of ratification concluding their non-aggression treaties. The Canadian government welcomes these agreements as major steps forward in relations between East and West. The Berlin Agreement hopefully marks the end of the recurring tension and instability in and around Berlin that have frequently envenomed East-West relations since the blockade in 1948. The non-aggression treaties should remove another source of tension, allowing the Federal German Republic to put its relations with Eastern Europe on a more normal basis.

• (1410)

Together these developments open the way for the Alliance to take part in multilateral preparatory talks on a conference on security and co-operation in Europe and for the two German states to begin negotiations on a *modus vivendi*. Such an accommodation is necessary for the success of the Berlin agreement and for the maintenance of stability in Central Europe. If the two German states can agree on a *modus vivendi*, it will pave the way for their entry into the United Nations and a general recognition of the German Democratic Republic.

When one looks back at the many years of stagnant East-West relations, the conclusion of the Berlin agreement and the non-aggression treaties represents remarkable progress. It vindicates the Alliance's policy of making a Berlin settlement the pre-condition for progress on preparation for a conference and demonstrates that the Alliance, through its solid support for Chancellor Brandt's "ostpolitik", is a positive instrument for détente.

NATO Ministers agreed in Bonn to accept the invitation of the Finnish government to hold multilateral preparato-