

ing force. The Committee considers, however, that the government should take care that it obtains a clearly stipulated and accepted fixed term for its commitment in this force. Canada would not wish to find itself again in the same situation as it is in Cyprus and where it would be faced with difficulties and controversies if it were to decide to terminate Canada's peacekeeping participation there.

#### 9. Diplomatic Representation

a) Syria is the one major country in the area with no resident Canadian diplomatic officers. The Committee recommends that the government establish an embassy in Damascus with a resident Ambassador.

b) The Committee views as unfortunate the state of Canada-Iran relations. As a condition to normalization of diplomatic relations, Iran continues to demand an apology from Canada for assisting U.S. embassy personnel to escape from Iran, a request that Canada quite correctly continues to refuse.

In the interests of removing the handicap to Canadian businessmen of having no official Canadian presence in Tehran and with a view to enhancing bilateral trade and commercial relations, the Canadian government should continue to seek the normalization of its relations with Iran.

c) The Committee suggests that the Department of External Affairs review the length of postings for officials to Middle East and North African posts with a view to extending the normal two-year length of posting to three or four years. It takes time to understand the culture, customs and procedures of the countries of the area.

#### 10. Trade

a) Trade between Canada and the Middle East and North African countries has been growing but not as quickly as hoped. With a few exceptions, the results of Canadian export efforts in the region have been meagre. To break into these markets requires hard work and a long lead time with frequently little to show for the effort. Nonetheless the Committee is persuaded that the Canadian private sector and the Canadian government cannot turn their backs on the opportunities, albeit limited, which exist there. A country as dependent as Canada on foreign trade, should pursue, with energy and persistence, the trade these markets could represent.

b) In respect to trade promotion, it was interesting to learn from business witnesses that ministerial visits to North Africa and the Middle East, including two prime ministerial visits, were judged to have given important support to sales efforts. Expansion of exports is also assisted by several government programs. It is important that ministers of the Crown continue to make official visits to countries of the region and that a substantial part of their departmental programs for these countries be devoted to trade promotion activities. Nor