

On 25 August 1988, Conservative Member Alan Redway made the following statement regarding the resumption of peace negotiations in Cyprus

...[F]ormal negotiations aimed at bringing about a peaceful settlement in Cyprus will resume at long last on September 15, after some three and a half years of interruption....We have an international reputation as a peace negotiator. We have experience with both minority rights guarantees and with a federal system of government....Because of this I would urge our Government to take and to play an active role in these Cyprus peace negotiations.<sup>35</sup>

On 12 April 1989, Defence Minister McKnight rose to deposit an Order in Council approving the deployment of Canadian forces in support of the UN Transition Assistance Group (UNTAG) in Namibia

I would like to take this opportunity to once again underline the importance that this Government attaches to international peacekeeping and peaceful resolution of disputes....Later this afternoon, the largest contingent of troops will be on their way to Namibia....[W]e have this week responded to an additional call from the United Nations above and beyond our troop commitments and will be providing additional air support for the speedy deployment of the UN force.<sup>36</sup>

On behalf of his Party, Liberal MP André Ouellet approved the decision to deploy Canadian Forces in support of UNTAG but had the following reservations:

The Minister's remarks are unfortunately incomplete and I deplore his failure to say anything about the situation in Namibia since April 1. Obviously, the recent incidents, the loss of life of many SWAPO members, greatly concern us Canadians. When the Minister tells us that he is sending troops..., he should give us an overview of the situation and give a report to us in the House, to the Canadian people and especially to the families of these service people who are going to that troubled part of the world....[W]e were talking about a United Nations force of some 7,000 soldiers. We know that there will only be 4,000. Many impartial observers consider this force much too small to really do the job....Secondly,...barely one quarter of the military forces have arrived....I wonder why...[the] offer of additional support...was not made several weeks ago....<sup>37</sup>

During the same debate, MP Howard McCurdy (NDP) also approved the Canadian role in UNTAG on behalf of his Party, but complained of the delay in putting UN peacekeeping forces in place in time for the scheduled 1 April 1989 cease-fire in Namibia:

35 *Commons Debates*, 25 August 1988, pp. 18839-18840.

36 *Commons Debates*, 12 April 1989, p. 396.

37 *Ibid.*, pp. 396-397.