

Current Canadian Position

Noting that "Canada is deeply concerned about the support that the Libyan regime has given to extremists", the Government introduced new measures against Libya on 10 January 1986. These measures included the termination of Government financial assistance and insurance coverage for Canadian business ventures in Libya, as well as the addition of Libya to the Area Control List of the Export and Import Permits Act. The Government also stated that it was calling on Canadian firms dealing with Libya not to take advantage of commercial openings created by the US embargo. Noting that it had no legal powers to force Canadians working in Libya to leave the country and that these Canadians appeared to be under no immediate threat, the Government suggested that "Canadians working there would do well to look to their particular circumstances in the context of current developments and assess whether they have grounds for anxiety about their security." Finally, the Government stated that "any further steps must be broadly based and co-ordinated", noting that "Canada is prepared to work vigorously toward the achievement of a meaningful consensus among our friends and allies."²

In response to a question in the House soon after the Berlin discotheque bombing, Prime Minister Mulroney stated:

The American Government and others are growing progressively concerned about the irresponsible and criminal misconduct of some agents of countries which appear to be giving succour to terrorism... which is completely unacceptable to Canada...³

When the possibility of US retaliation increased, Mr. Mulroney stated that:

² PMO, Release, 10 January 1986.

³ Commons Debates, 9 April 1986, p.12047.