

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, would it be appropriate for all Members of the House to rise for a moment's silence?

[Whereupon the House stood in silence.]

● (1410)

STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S.O. 22

[English]

UNITED NATIONS

NUCLEAR FREEZE RESOLUTION—CALL FOR CANADIAN SUPPORT

Hon. Warren Allmand (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce-Lachine East): Mr. Speaker, this week at the UN delegates will be asked to vote on the Sweden-Mexico nuclear freeze proposal. This resolution will urge the United States and the Soviet Union, as the two major nuclear weapons states, to proclaim an immediate nuclear arms freeze as a first step towards a comprehensive program of disarmament. At the First Committee of the UN vote held this year on November 20, 113 countries voted in favour of this significant resolution. Unfortunately Canada was one of 11 countries which voted against.

I would like to take this opportunity to call on the Government of Canada to direct our representative at the UN to join with the vast majority of other delegates around the world in voting for the freeze resolution. Only by taking this important step will Canada be recognized as a nation committed to world disarmament and peace.

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REFUGEES

GUATEMALA—KIDNAPPING OF WOMAN HOLDER OF REFUGEE VISA

Mr. Dan Heap (Spadina): Mr. Speaker, Beatriz Barrios Marroquin, mother of two young children, was kidnapped yesterday by four armed men some hours before she would have left her home in Guatemala City to enter Canada with her visa as a refugee. Ms. Barrios had already been politically kidnapped a month ago, tortured, then released through her family's influence. Wishing to become a refugee in Canada, she was barred because the Minister of Employment and Immigration (Ms. MacDonald) decreed early this year that all Guatemalans must obtain visas before arriving in Canada.

Although Canada votes for the annual UN resolutions condemning Guatemala's brutal repression, although Guatemalans have not abused visitors' rights entering Canada, although thousands of Canadians warned and petitioned the Minister that imposing visa requirements would endanger

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genuine Guatemalan refugees by exposing them to observation by the death squads when they arrange for their visas, the Minister nevertheless imposed the visa requirement endangering refugees like Ms. Barrios. Therefore the Minister now shares responsibility for the fate of Ms. Barrios and ought now, in all conscience, to withdraw that visa requirement for the protection of other refugees.

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AUTOMOTIVE INDUSTRY

ANNOUNCED ESTABLISHMENT OF TOYOTA ASSEMBLY PLANT IN CAMBRIDGE, ONT.

Mr. John Reimer (Kitchener): Mr. Speaker, today the Toyota Motor Corporation announced it will build an automobile assembly plant in Cambridge, Ontario. This \$400 million investment will provide employment for 1,000 workers producing 50,000 passenger cars per year, and will commence operation in 1988. This is great news for Cambridge and the adjacent Kitchener-Waterloo area, and indeed for Canada as a whole.

Since taking office last year, and with the cancellation of FIRA and the immediate creation of Investment Canada, the federal Government has been working hard to ensure that Canada offers a healthy investment climate, thereby encouraging companies from other countries to locate here. One by one we are seeing this effort produce results.

Today's announcement by Toyota is the latest evidence that Canada is indeed an ideal country in which to invest. This will mean jobs, jobs for construction workers, plant employees, car dealerships and the many auto parts suppliers of Waterloo County. In fact the economic spin-offs will have an enormous impact upon all areas of Cambridge and Kitchener-Waterloo economic life, including small business, housing, retail outlets, schools, hospitals and so on.

Toyota is to be congratulated. Its decision is a tremendous vote of confidence in the Canadian economy in general, and in the skill and hard work of the people of Cambridge and Kitchener-Waterloo in particular.

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[Translation]

AUTOMOTIVE INDUSTRY

ECONOMIC SITUATION

Mr. Gilles Bernier (Beauce): Mr. Speaker, we recently saw how once again, Canadians recovered their confidence in Canada's economy and in the future. Another series of figures published by Statistics Canada confirms that our economic situation is very encouraging. I am referring to the data on automobile sales for October. These figures indicate a 14 per cent increase over the same month in 1984. This considerable growth in new car sales is a clear sign that Canadians have