

Adjournment Debate

promised that country, part of which was given by Canada. Possibly some people felt it was not enough. We promised at least \$60 million in aid at that time, but there were other kinds of aid.

For example, I have here a press clipping of the *Ottawa Citizen*, May 13, 1981, which I read in part:

The Zimbabwe government has turned to Ottawa's medical experts for advice in rehabilitating almost 5,000 of its war-mutilated soldiers. Dr. Sidney Dinsdale, head of psychiatry at the Royal Ottawa Hospital's new rehabilitation centre, will fly to Zimbabwe Friday to share with doctors his expertise in the handling of amputations and other disabling injuries.

That is the kind of outpouring which took place around the world to that country. Canada invested, in terms of CIDA, something like \$50 million, and then in excess of another \$10 million or \$12 million in teacher aid, as well as other kinds of support.

At the same time we were hearing concerns that the country might turn to a one-party rule. It was precisely because of that concern that there was a sense of urgency on the part of western nations that aid should be forthcoming as quickly as possible, and that they should encourage the viability of the economy in that country and the viability of a multi-party system in that Government.

About a year ago I had lunch with a Member of Parliament from Zimbabwe. I found that he was in fact a Member of Parliament in exile and that he was travelling throughout the world pleading the cause of not only himself but of a colleague of his in that assembly, expressing a concern for many of his other compatriots, white and black, who were faced with the fear of oppression because the intelligence agency of that country was intimidating people around the country.

That stimulated my concern about Zimbabwe, and I had documented evidence that there was reason to be concerned. I began writing to our Secretary of State for External Affairs, (Mr. MacEachen) expressing these concerns. His original correspondence indicated that my fears were somewhat on the alarmist side, that there was no substantiation to them, and that there was no real need of concern, but that, according to their reports, everything was going well.

As I persisted in my correspondence I became increasingly concerned that our officials in Zimbabwe were not as observant as they might have been. The latest press reports indicate, as they have indicated in the past week or ten days, that not only has there been oppression of the elected Members of Parliament in that country, but there seems to have been oppression of people throughout the countryside. We hear press reports of shallow graves throughout the area and that there has been harassment. We now have the Leader of the Opposition fleeing to England for security.

What is even more alarming is that the Ministers of the Crown in the ruling Party are calling for the annihilation of the Opposition Party. I am speaking of the Party, not the people in the Party. That gives cause, Mr. Speaker, to believe that they are moving to a one-Party state, and when I hear press reports confirming what I knew a year ago, that the

North Koreans are training an elitist guard in Zimbabwe, we have cause for concern.

• (1805)

My simple question to the Parliamentary Secretary is, can we put any kind of pressure on this Zimbabwe Government to make sure that the aid we are giving to that country will be aid for the citizens and not to help the Government continue its oppressive tactics on the population?

Mr. Jean Lapierre (Parliamentary Secretary to Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I would first of all like to thank the Hon. Member for raising this issue. I would like to reassure him that we, as a Government, have conveyed his message and also the message we received from the press as to certain activities in Zimbabwe.

Last week we had a visitor, a Member of that Government, with whom we had a long conversation concerning the circumstances surrounding the events which happened over the past Christmas holiday. We understand that the Government subsequently sent police and military units into that region in order to counter such dissident activities. It appears that in the course of these operations, a considerable number of people in the area suffered injuries or lost their lives.

We were very concerned about these reports and we have drawn our concerns to the attention of the Zimbabwe authorities at senior levels. We conveyed the hope that peace and reconciliation would replace conflict. We have been assured by the Zimbabwe authorities that national reconciliation remains a primary objective. The Government of Zimbabwe has also informed us that a three-man team has been designated to carry out an inquiry and to receive briefs from the general public and non-governmental and church organizations. Although this is not a formal Commission of Inquiry, it has been established at the direction of Prime Minister Mugabe and is empowered to recommend remedial action. We shall, of course, follow the situation closely in view of our close ties with Zimbabwe. That is why we say that, as friends and supporters of an independent Zimbabwe, we share high hopes for the country and its people. All the funds we have committed up to now are currently committed to joint projects with the Zimbabwe Government, and we intend to honour these commitments. We are, however, following the situation very closely.

TRADE—EXPORT RESTRICTIONS ON BRANCH PLANTS—REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF DOCUMENTS. (B) ROLE OF UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT IN PROHIBITING EXPORTS

Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton-Melville): Mr. Speaker, on Friday last I asked questions of the Minister of State for International Trade (Mr. Regan) about the restriction on some Canadian firms vis-à-vis their exports. I would like to pursue that for a few moments.

We stumbled across some documents from the 1960s which revealed that trade commissioners had said to the Government of that day, that up to 75 per cent of the branch plants operating in Canada were operating under some form of restrictions on their exports, thus losing Canadians literally hundreds of