

of Labor, the umbrella body for 800,000 union members in Ontario, agreed to a resolution which called for the recognition of Israel's right to live within secure borders based on 1967 boundaries, and the right of the Palestinian people to a secure and independent homeland. It also endorsed the PLO as the "legitimate representative of the Palestinian people." The intent of that resolution was debated, but the OFL executive board agreed to make recognition of the PLO conditional on its prior acceptance of Israel. Canadian Labor Congress president Dennis Dermott said the next day that he did not support the resolution (*Globe and Mail*, November 25 and 26).

Speaking at the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People November 29, Liberal MP Ian Watson (Chateauguy) criticized the Canadian government for "pusy-footing" around the recognition of an independent Palestinian state. He said that all but two or three of the twenty-three members of the Liberal Party's Quebec caucus were sympathetic to the Palestinians, and between 60 and 70 percent of Ontario Liberal MPs felt the same way. "We must move now to support the establishment of an independent Palestinian state and not be reticent in so declaring to other countries that that is our position," the MP said. Another speaker was NDP MP Derek Blackburn (Brant) who said that Palestinians must have a homeland on the West Bank and on the Gaza.

Latin America

On November 30, the Sub-committee on Canada's Relations with Latin America and the Caribbean of the House of Commons Standing Committee on External Affairs and National Defence released its report on South America and its final report, *New Directions for Canadian Foreign Policy*. These reports followed two previous reports prepared by the Sub-committee in the past year: *The Interim Report* of December 1981, and the *Report on the Caribbean and Central America*, submitted to the House of Commons in July 1982. The Final Report and the Report on South America completed eighteen months of work by the Sub-committee, composed of fifteen MPs from all three political parties.

The central recommendation of the Final Report was that the government of Canada give a much higher priority than it has in the past to Canada's relations with Latin America and the Caribbean. A press release from the Sub-committee November 30 said:

Throughout the course of its work, the Sub-committee has consistently identified and advanced a set of Canadian foreign policy concerns in relations with Latin America and the Caribbean: human rights, trade and investment, development and security. As our investigations proceeded we came to realize the importance of these concerns as elements within the central, medium-term objective of Canadian foreign policy — *the promotion of stability*. Respect for the rights of the individual, the development of mutual interests in bilateral and global economic relations, progress in solving the great problems of poverty and the amelioration of domestic and international conflict — each of these are vital elements in the promotion of stability in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The Sub-committee said that it was convinced that Canada has compelling economic and other interests in

Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as opportunities to promote those objectives. As a demonstration of Canada's willingness to enter the arena of inter-American debates and concerns, a majority of the members of the Sub-committee and the Standing Committee recommended that Canada should seek full membership in the Organization of the American States. The Sub-committee also stressed the importance of ongoing Parliamentary interest in the region, and recommended that "the government prepare a written response to the reports of the Sub-committee and that, at the time of tabling such a document, a day's debate on Canada's relations with Latin America and the Caribbean be scheduled in the House of Commons," and that the External Affairs Standing Committee be empowered to play a continuous role in the examination of Canadian foreign policy and conduct a periodic review of Canada's relations with Latin America and the Caribbean (Sub-committee press release, November 30).

DEFENCE

F-18 Purchase Questioned

Canada's plan to purchase 138 F-18 Hornet jet fighters was questioned in the House of Commons in November. The plane had received criticism by a US House of Representatives sub-committee which said that the fighter was excessively costly, a poor performer and hard to maintain. An analysis had shown that the Hornet would not be a viable, effective weapon against the Soviet Backfire or in its other function as a fighter escort. Similar charges against the Hornet had been made in the US previously.

In the House November 9, Defence Minister Gilles Lamontagne defended the F-18 as being suitable for Canadian purposes. In response to questions by NDP defence critic Terry Sargeant (Selkirk-Interlake) about the \$5.2 billion purchase, Mr. Lamontagne said that the negative US report was related to the performance of the F-18 during tests of landing on aircraft carriers, and Canada does not intend to buy an aircraft carrier. PC defence critic Allan B. McKinnon also questioned the Defence Minister about the range and cost of the aircraft. Again, Mr. Lamontagne said that for Canadian purposes, the plane has the proper and required range. Additional costs above the projected \$22.5 million per plane are because of spare parts, weaponry and maintenance, the Minister said. Canadian companies had been promised \$2.45 billion worth of work when Canada agreed to buy the fighters.

Security—Spy Trial in Britain

On November 29 and 30, at the beginning of the trial of Hugh Hambleton, a Canadian economics professor charged in Britain with passing top secret NATO information to the Soviet Union, MPs in the House of Commons questioned Solicitor General Robert Kaplan about the case. Some of the information-passing activity had taken place in Canada, and opposition MPs wanted to know why Mr. Hambleton had not been charged in Canada under the Official Secrets Act, in view of the fact that the RCMP had known about Mr. Hambleton's activities for two years. Mr. Kaplan told the Commons that it had been determined in