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them of his full support in their campaign against low-level military flights over their ancestral land.

In his communiqué, the Pope stated clearly that the Church recognizes Amerindians as the ones mainly responsible for their own development, which must be based on their own spiritual and moral values, that it is with them in this task and supports them in their search for just and equitable solutions to situations that threaten their welfare and the future of their communities.

Mr. Speaker, Amerindians have succeeded in making people in Canada and abroad aware of this cause, on which I have already spoken, declaring myself to be against these low-level military flights.

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[*English*]

LEBANON

Mr. Mark Assad (Gatineau—La Lièvre): Mr. Speaker, the tragic news of the assassination of the newly elected president of Lebanon is another cruel and senseless blow aimed at all of the Lebanese people. Such an act of violence can only destroy and further complicate the process of national reconciliation so desperately needed after 15 years of civil war.

I think it is only normal that the Lebanese people in this country should call upon this government which sits in the United Nations on the Security Council. The only solution to the problem is to have an international conference concerning the problem in Lebanon. Obviously, the solution will be achieved if the two invading armies on Lebanese soil go back to their own homelands.

The Middle East is a holy land. Lebanon is as holy for the Lebanese people as for any other people in that area. Therefore, it is the role of the Canadian government to call upon the two invading armies of Israel and Syria to withdraw and regulate the Palestinian question once and for all.

• (1110)

FEDERAL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT BANK

Mr. Geoff Wilson (Swift Current—Maple Creek—Assiniboia): Mr. Speaker, the latest tempest in a teapot over FBDB making loans to companies which operate strip clubs is useful because it raises once again the larger question as to why government would be in the lending business at all. Each government lending agency means a duplication of personnel and facilities and additional expense for Canadians.

We have in Canada an excellent system of private-sector lending institutions, including banks, credit unions and trust companies, all of which are perfectly capable of providing the financial intermediation services that Canadians need. Why on earth do we need another layer of government bureaucracy in the lending business?

Given the national debt and deficit situation and the clear message from Canadians that government should cut spending, I suggest it is time examine the whole question of government involvement in the financial intermediation field.

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NORTHERN TAX ALLOWANCE

Mr. Brian L. Gardiner (Prince George—Bulkley Valley): Mr. Speaker, residents across northern British Columbia and other provinces are expressing outrage over the report of the task force on the northern and isolated tax allowance.

New Democrats have been leading the fight against the regressive recommendations and we are pleased that the member for Prince George—Peace River and a member of cabinet have now joined our call to scrap the report. In a November 17 *Prince George Citizen* report the minister is quoted as saying that he is disappointed with the task force recommendations and that he will ask the finance minister to take another look at the report.

The minister should listen to northerners, New Democrats, and his cabinet colleagues and scrap the task force report.