

Oral Questions

to the United States. That, too, is public knowledge. I am sure the hon. member is aware of the way in which the Canadian government, the Canadian people and the Canadian Parliament feel.

● (1430)

I would further inform the hon. member that in other fora throughout the Commonwealth, as well as through *La Francophonie*, some of the members of the summit are making their views known. There are a variety of ways in which the summit countries have been communicating their very real concern about this situation.

Mr. MacEachen: Mr. Speaker, the reply of the minister has fully justified my concern, because she has not been able to say that the leaders of these free democratic nations have personally said anything. The minister has not been able to say that Prime Minister Thatcher, President Giscard d'Estaing, Chancellor Helmut Schmidt, or the Prime Minister of Japan have individually or collectively stood up and condemned the atrocious situation in Iran. That is why we are still asking the Prime Minister to take a lead and to get these people to come together to speak out on this issue.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Miss MacDonald: Mr. Speaker, I am not sure whether the hon. member is more anxious to condemn the leaders of the countries in the free world than he is to condemn the actions of the ayatollah.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Miss MacDonald: It may be that the hon. member does not recognize the European Community or the European Parliament as a just voice to express the concerns of those countries. It may be that the hon. member does not recognize their Parliament as the just voice to recognize their concern, but we on this side of the House do.

Mr. MacEachen: Where are the leaders?

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question. I must say that I find it inconceivable that the minister would suggest, when we are asking the leaders of the industrialized nations to stand up publicly and to take a stand collectively, that we would be suspected of attacking them rather than the ayatollah.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. MacEachen: Shame. Apologize.

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, in all our questions it has been clear that we are condemning the actions of the government of Iran in not taking firm steps to set free the hostages, but we will soon be condemning this government if it continues to take such stand-offish attitudes.

Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton): Question.

[Mr. MacDonald (Secretary of State for External).]

Mr. Trudeau: I have a question. I am distressed at the indifference on the other side, and the applause for such a comment.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Trudeau: The United States is our closest friend and ally: we have always said that when we have needed their help. Will this government, in the next 24 hours, get in contact with the other six summit leaders, ask them collectively to make a statement of solidarity with the United States and to make it publicly at the head of state level, as Mr. Clark should be making a statement?

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Miss MacDonald: Mr. Speaker, I am sure that the former prime minister recognizes that the Prime Minister has made statements on this subject, and that he has been staunch in his support of the United States throughout the last 24 long days through actions many of which cannot be publicly conveyed, and of which the hon. member should be aware are taking place in everything that we do.

I would say to the Leader of the Opposition that we have on numerous occasions reiterated our support to the United States. We have opened new channels where there would be much broader support for the actions, through the Commonwealth countries—which we think is a very representative group of countries embodying different countries, creeds and cultures. We have approached the countries of *La Francophonie*, and we have taken into consideration the stand that has already been put forward by the leaders of the summit countries to which the hon. member has referred.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, yesterday the Prime Minister constantly—and, I am beginning to believe, deliberately—missed the point. It is not enough for Canada, France or Germany to tell the United States, “We feel for you, brother, and we are your friends.”

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Trudeau: It is important that the governments which are allies of the United States indicate that they are prepared to take collective action, and that they will be collectively affronted if any harm comes to any of the hostages from the United States. That is what we are asking of the government, not vague statements by European parliamentarians.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Miss MacDonald: Mr. Speaker, I apologize to my friends in the gallery.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: Order.