

Oral Questions

and resolve this tragedy so that no further violence takes place?

Hon. Marcel Danis (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, of course we deplore the acts of violence that have taken place in Yellowknife.

As I said in my earlier answer we are in contact with the parties and my hon. friend knows that in these types of disputes the best settlements that can be achieved are settlements that the parties achieve by themselves. However, I have been in touch with the parties and I am hopeful they will be back at the table.

I think it would also be helpful if people would try to stay out of this dispute. I am not referring to my hon. friend but I am referring to a number of politicians around the country who try to get involved. I have been told by the parties that it is hurting the situation instead of providing for a settlement.

Mr. Speaker: I wonder if I could assist the House. Because of the interventions earlier, I think which we all enjoyed taking a part in, I hope this will be acceptable to the House to extend Question Period to 3.15 p.m.

I must say though I have already had representations that some ministers may have to leave for other obligations and I am sure we understand that. I hope the House will accept that.

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HENRIETTE HADDAD

Hon. Warren Allmand (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Acting Prime Minister. There are widespread reports that Henriette Haddad, who was taken hostage in Lebanon in 1985, is still alive, was recently hospitalized in Iran and has now returned to Lebanon. There are also strong indications that her captors are now willing to negotiate her release on humanitarian grounds.

When Mrs. Haddad's son and I met with the Prime Minister in April, he promised to actively pursue this case. I want to ask if the minister will now make a commitment to pursue these new developments and seek the release of Mrs. Haddad as soon as possible?

Hon. Harvie Andre (Minister of State and Leader of the Government in the House of Commons): Mr. Speaker, there are approaches being made at the ambassadorial level, both in Ottawa and Tehran, in order to obtain confirmation of this newest information on Mrs. Haddad's fate.

As you may know, Mr. Speaker, the Iranian Embassy in Paris today asserted that it had no information on Mrs. Haddad's whereabouts. The Iranian Embassy in Paris also denied that any of its staff had been in touch with the Haddad family representatives or intermediaries. That same message was communicated to the Canadian Embassy in Paris.

While embassy officials in Paris say they have no information and they have not contacted the family and they communicated that to the Canadian Embassy, we are, nevertheless, following up whatever leads are available. We are in contact both in Tehran and here with Iranian officials. We will certainly search out every lead in an effort to determine Mrs. Haddad's fate.

[*Translation*]

Hon. Warren Allmand (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce): Mr. Speaker, the government itself must take an active part in the negotiations, which until now have been carried on by the committee to free Mrs. Haddad. The government must also insist on calling Mrs. Haddad a hostage and not just a missing person. This is absolutely necessary to obtain her release. Is the government prepared to make that commitment, which is very important for Mrs. Haddad?

[*English*]

Hon. Harvie Andre (Minister of State and Leader of the Government in the House of Commons): Mr. Speaker, of course, that is precisely what I just indicated we are doing, contacting the Iranian officials in Tehran through our embassy and the Iranian Embassy here.

I have to repeat, the news story which came out saying that the Iranian Embassy in Paris confirms she is alive is being denied publicly by the Iranian Embassy in Paris and it has communicated this denial to our embassy in Paris. Nevertheless, we are still following up with Iran in an effort to establish whether we can discover the fate of Mrs. Haddad.

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FOETAL ALCOHOL SYNDROME

Mr. Jim Karpoff (Surrey North): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the minister of health.

There are reports today that the minister of health says he will act on the unanimous recommendation made by the Sub-Committee on Health Issues in its report on foetal alcohol syndrome by entering into pilot projects on warning labels with interested provinces.