

Oral Questions

by a government is to ensure that they are valid, well done and not falsified. As soon as the weaknesses of the IBT tests were known, they were declared invalid and the proper course of action was taken. We are continuously attempting to ensure that all tests are valid.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**SUGGESTED CONDITIONS FOR RESTORATION OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH IRAN**

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Leader of the Opposition): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister, who will recall that on Monday he said that his government will "move toward a normalization of relations with Iran as soon as possible". Would the Prime Minister assure the House of Commons now that restoration of full diplomatic relations with Iran will not take place until at least these two conditions have been met: first, that there be an investigation into and report on any torture or violations of the human rights of the American hostages; and, second, that Iran has demonstrated that it will accept the normal international standards of behaviour governing diplomats abroad?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Madam Speaker, there are two aspects to this question. The question about resumption of diplomatic relations with Iran by the Leader of the Opposition presupposes that we have broken off diplomatic relations which, of course, neither his government nor mine has done. We still have diplomatic relations with Iran. The question is, when will we take concrete steps to send our mission back to Tehran? As the Secretary of State for External Affairs said the other day, that certainly would be done in months rather than in weeks.

The return of diplomats will depend largely on the assistance which Canadians need in Iran, if any at all, whether those are Canadians needing consular help or businessmen seeking to resume operations or regain some of their losses. So we cannot answer this question in advance; it will be decided in the best interests of the Canadian people.

With regard to normal relations, since the remark quoted by the Leader of the Opposition is the answer which I gave, I should say that I believe the remarks were made in the context of sanctions. The sanctions were taken specifically to obtain the release of the hostages. The hostages have now been released. I believe that it would be the policy of this government, though it has not been made a decision as yet, to lift those sanctions, as, indeed, they have been lifted already by the EEC, Australia, Japan and other countries which wish to re-establish normal relations with Iran.

But this being said, we are concerned as a government about the news of ill treatment of the hostages, and we will wait for further information before taking any concrete steps, particularly in light of the fact that the object of this exercise was to ensure respect for international law, especially the Vienna convention on diplomatic immunity. As I argued very early in

this whole crisis, I think that much of what happens will depend on consultations between the major parties concerned. We will be in touch with many of the countries which took steps similar to the steps Canada took.

Mr. Clark: Madam Speaker, we have had a long answer and little enlightenment as to what will guide the policy of the government. The question both Monday and today had to do with the resumption of full and normal relations with the government of Iran. On Monday the Prime Minister said that those full and normal relations would be resumed "as soon as possible". The Prime Minister is now quoting his Secretary of State for External Affairs to suggest that perhaps there will be a longer time period.

I have raised two conditions which we believe should be among the conditions necessary before that resumption is achieved. One is that there be an investigation into and report on the torture and violation of human rights relating to the American hostages; and the second is that Iran demonstrate that it is prepared to abide by the normal diplomatic customs in relation to diplomats abroad. I would like a simple answer to the question whether or not those two conditions will have to be honoured by Iran before full and normal diplomatic relations are established by Canada with Iran.

Mr. Trudeau: Madam Speaker, the answer to the second question has been given by the Secretary of State for External Affairs in this House when he dealt with this matter the other day, the same day as I dealt with this matter. He said—and I remind the Leader of the Opposition that if he is interested in this question, he should review what was said by the minister responsible—that we will not send diplomats to Iran until we are certain that the Iranian authorities are prepared to respect diplomatic immunities and the provisions of international law as laid down in the Vienna convention. The answer has already been given, and it is part of government policy.

As to the first part of the question, I am not quite sure who will carry out this investigation, what the suggestion by the Leader of the Opposition is or what is the international convention which he has in mind. It seems to me that this is a matter for the United States first and foremost. I repeat, we will be consulting with the United States as to what means they envisage in order to ascertain the facts of the matter.

Mr. Clark: Madam Speaker, the mystery is just exactly what principles will guide the government in this matter. I hope that the Prime Minister will consult with his Secretary of State for External Affairs when he returns and make a clear, concise, unambiguous statement as to what will guide them. Would the Prime Minister consider placing on the agenda of the upcoming economic summit in June, which will be hosted by Canada, the subject of terrorism perpetrated by governments against diplomatic personnel, so that such action would automatically trigger the kinds of economic sanctions discussed one year ago at the United Nations?

Mr. Trudeau: Madam Speaker, I answered that question just a couple of days ago in reply to the hon. member for