

S. O. 29

Governments which would have the responsibility of coping in a tough way with international violence, which Interpol has not been able to act upon. That is a practical proposal I would like to see tried.

I would like to conclude with the following observation. We as a nation must recognize the historical origin of terrorism in the Middle East—not to condone it. To recognize the human and sociological origin of crime is not to condone crime. However, if you do understand some of the background you can cope with it more adequately, and remove it in some cases. To understand modern political terrorism which comes out of the Middle East we must have other than a mad-dog view of human history. The truth is that most terrorist activities coming from Arab countries is directly related to the very sad post-war history of the Palestinians and their quest for a homeland. The Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Clark) in his recent statement made in the Middle East showed that there is one member of the Government who has some understanding of what is required historically. Until Israel is left with secure borders, until the Palestinians are granted their homeland and, in short, until some solution is found to what is called the Middle East problem, there can be no real solution to the violence. In my view this is sad, but it is also true. In the meantime we need understanding, not slogans; we need firmness, not violence. Instead of undermining international law, we need to adhere to its fundamental principles.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) is not here. This is a matter affecting the peace of the world, and the Prime Minister should be here.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra): I was giving the Deputy Prime Minister (Mr. Nielsen) an opportunity to respond to the case put by the Leader of the New Democratic Party (Mr. Broadbent).

An Hon. Member: He chickened out.

Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra): No, he is not a chicken, but he is waiting to see what the Opposition has to say and will try to gather whatever argument the Government can muster in favour of a very obscure position. This is not the first time that the Prime Minister has not met a major national issue in the House of Commons. This is where the issues ought to be discussed. I do not care whether it is a television world or an immediate electronic world, the issues of the country are discussed here on the floor of the House of Commons, and the Prime Minister ought to be here.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra): Mr. Speaker, we are pleased to have the opportunity to discuss a very important

international issue involving all nations, including Canadians who do not yield in their thrust for peace to any other people on the face of the globe.

I want to second what the Hon. Member for Oshawa (Mr. Broadbent) has so eloquently said. I am sure that we prompt the unanimity of the Canadian community when we say that as far as we are concerned international terrorism is a cancer afflicting mankind. It is indiscriminate in wiping out innocent victims. The lives lost now are beyond count. People in civilized communities are now afraid to travel. I agree at this stage with the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) when he said we in this country must all work together to eliminate terrorism. It has become a new style of guerrilla warfare. It is a blight on civilization and we in Canada should do everything we can within the framework of international law and international comity, in conjunction with our friends and allies and other civilized nations, to meet it on a mutual basis. Libya has made no secret of its support for some of these terrorist groups. Its leader, Colonel Khadafy, has been, if nothing else, a cheer-leader in support of some of those attacks.

● (2030)

Before I get into the issues as we see them I want to summarize our position. We support the U.S. objective in its strike against the core of terrorism. We at this stage are obliged to accept the word of the President and that of his Secretary of State and Secretary of Defense. Our Government, whether or not it was in consultation with or informed by the U.S., has not given us, and Canadians through us, information upon which to make a firm judgment. We do not have the facts. We have not been told what the linkage is between terrorism in West Germany and other parts of the world, and Libya. We have not been told of the nature of the consultation between the American and Canadian Governments. We do not know whether the President personally informed the Prime Minister, or whether the consultation was only between an anonymous American official and the Deputy Prime Minister of Canada. What was the nature of those discussions? Was it a one-sided conversation? What questions were asked by the Deputy Prime Minister? Indeed, what questions were asked by the Prime Minister of the President of the United States before a position was taken this morning by the Canadian Government? Did we ask the U.S. and the U.S. President whether there was to be a limited military engagement against specific terrorist targets? Did we ask the President where the U.S. goes from here? Did we have any evaluation from the President as to the risks of escalation? We do not know, and today's Question Period did not enlighten us one whit.

The Liberal Party has a long tradition of seeking ways to end terrorism. Mr. Trudeau, Prime Minister of our country for 16 years, raised the issue many times. We in this corner of the House await with interest what the Deputy Prime Minister has to say, but we are disturbed that we do not have the information upon which to make a secure judgment. Whatever information the Government of Canada may or may not have