

*Oral Questions*

of Canada at this particular time would not be helpful. In consequence, and acting on the direct recommendation of the Secretary of State for External Affairs, I advised President de Klerk of my intention to delay a visit to South Africa until some other time.

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**YUGOSLAVIA**

**Mr. John Reimer (Kitchener):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Secretary of State for External Affairs.

Would the minister agree that the United Nations Security Council urgently needs to consider the grave and tragic Yugoslavian situation and offer to mediate it and, should that mediation process begin, also offer to send a United Nations peacekeeping force into Yugoslavia so that the democratic process and the wishes of the people will be respected in determining their future?

**Hon. Barbara McDougall (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, let me say, in response to this question, and also some of the remarks that were made earlier, that Canada very early condemned the violence in Yugoslavia in all its aspects and, indeed, the Prime Minister has written letters to the President of Yugoslavia. I have raised it directly with the foreign minister of Yugoslavia. We completely agree that it is time for the UN Security Council to consider the matter and indeed, the Prime Minister, in discussions with our ambassador there, has recommended that we explore with the President of the Security Council all avenues that are open to the United Nations.

We are very concerned about the situation. We have discussed it with the Croatians, who obviously are distraught about this situation. I have offered the resources of my department to try and help them stay in touch with their families. If a peacekeeping operation is organized, of course Canada will be there offering to help.

We are also in regular touch with the President of the European Community who is doing his best to try to manage this situation in the meantime.

[*Translation*]

**MONTREAL'S ECONOMY**

**Hon. Lucien Bouchard (Lac-Saint-Jean):** Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the minister responsible for regional development, the Minister of Transportation, I will direct my question to the Prime Minister.

Aside from ancient history, quibbling between the old parties and all the bragging, the fact remains that Montreal's economy is in a sorry state. Everybody agrees on that point, except for the minister responsible. You do not have to be a native of Montreal to know that Montreal is the motor of the Quebec economy and that, should Montreal's economy crumble, it would spell disaster for the entire province. I ask the Prime Minister: at long last, will you tell us, tell this House and tell Quebec what you intend to do to put Montreal's economy on track again?

**Hon. Marcel Danis (Minister of Labour):** Mr. Speaker, the hon. member knows full well that Montreal is going through a difficult time while adjusting to structural changes in the economy. In the early 1980's, when the manufacturing sector was very strong in Montreal, the members opposite who were then in power imposed upon Montreal a protectionist policy which is now proving to be catastrophic. What we have tried to do first in our February Budget, was to bring down the deficit, to curb inflation and lower interest rates. And we have no doubt that this kind of policy will bring about a strong economic recovery.

**Mr. Lapierre:** Platitudes!

**Hon. Lucien Bouchard (Lac-Saint-Jean):** Mr. Speaker, same old tune! This is a serious question and I will put it again to the Premier Minister. He knows Montreal and its people well. He knows what the community thinks. He knows that the people are worried and wonder how much longer they will have to suffer from the incompetence and indifference of the present minister responsible for their area. When will the government and the Prime Minister appoint a minister truly responsible for Montreal, for Montreal's sake?

**Hon. Marcel Danis (Minister of Labour):** We are doing a lot for Montreal, Mr. Speaker and always with the future in mind. Tomorrow's industries not yesterday's need our support. We are doing a lot to support