

absolutely clear the offence taken by Canadians at some of the practices adopted by the Israeli Government in the occupied territories.

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, as the Hon. Member indicated, the Prime Minister raised directly in his remarks in this House the question of the concern of Canadians about human rights situations in the Middle East. Indeed, I found it interesting and important that the President of Israel in his own remarks made reference to the anguish that question causes within Israel, elsewhere in the Middle East and in this country.

The Prime Minister and I took the opportunity at lunch today to speak directly to the President of Israel about questions relating to detentions and, of course, about questions relating to the application in Israel of the Geneva Convention.

Mr. Blaikie: Mr. Speaker, I hope that the Prime Minister and the Secretary of State for External Affairs were more forceful in their private conversations and I trust that they will take whatever further opportunities present themselves to make that point over and over again.

GOVERNMENT POLICY RESPECTING ELECTIONS IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

Mr. Bill Blaikie (Winnipeg Transcona): I would like to ask the Secretary of State a further question with respect to the proposal by the Israeli Government for elections in the occupied territories. It is not clear to me exactly what the Canadian government position is with respect to the proposal by the Israeli Government. Could the Secretary of State for External Affairs say what the Canadian position is on these elections, because obviously there are many important questions that remain to be answered before we could regard this election proposal as a suitable object of the peace process?

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, two things. First, the Prime Minister addressed directly those questions of human rights as Members of this House who were present here today know.

Second, I answered a question from the Hon. Member for Calgary Southwest the other day in this House with respect to the question of the Shamir proposal. We believe it is a significant and important proposal on the

part of Israel. There are obviously a great many details that remain to be worked out. We think that it does provide a basis for movement toward a peaceful settlement in that region, based upon Resolution 242. In that spirit we support it actively and we will try to continue our efforts to encourage the Palestinians to respond in a positive way to that initiative.

• (1510)

Mr. Speaker: I want to advise the House that there will be a question from the Hon. Member for Hillsborough and a very short supplemental, followed by a question from the Hon. Member for Don Valley North and that will close off Question Period. The Hon. Member for Hillsborough.

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LABOUR

CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL—GOVERNMENT POLICY RESPECTING CONTRACTING TO PRIVATE INDUSTRY

Mr. George Proud (Hillsborough): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Labour. In the latest report of the Government's own Construction Industry Development Council, the Council recommended the contracting out of Government contracts to private industry. In other words, privatization.

It appears that the Government has established a general policy of contracting out and that it is encouraging private industry to follow its lead.

Is the Minister aware of the Council's recommendation and, if so, is this in fact a Government policy?

Hon. Jean Corbeil (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, I am happy to restate again that the Minister of Labour, as well as this Government, is very proud of what the Centre has been doing over the past few years.

I am also proud to report to the critic of the Liberal Party that at a recent meeting in Calgary, the Council of Governors adopted the following resolution:

The President and Chief Executive Officer, with a Task Force representing stakeholders, start the preparation of alternative plans for the future of the Centre which are in accordance with principles of individual free access previously agreed to by the Council of Governors.

We wholeheartedly agree with this resolution.