

Government Orders

United Nations to appoint a special representative in charge of supervising relief operations.

Secretary General Perez de Cuellar appointed Prince Sadrudin Agha Khan. According to the latest news, the situation in the camps has improved considerably and air transport operations are now better organized.

Since the beginning of October, more than 300,000 people have been repatriated, thanks to the concerted efforts of the UN and bilateral action by Pakistan, Egypt and other countries.

However, Mr. Speaker, there are still thousands of foreign workers in Iraq and Kuwait, and the situation remains explosive. New waves of refugees fleeing Iraq and Kuwait are still reaching the borders.

Canada is prepared to continue its assistance. On September 14, the Prime Minister announced that an additional \$75 million in humanitarian and economic aid would be set aside to help people directly affected by the crisis. This money will be used partly to charter Canadian planes that will take displaced persons back to their countries of origin, including Bangladesh, the Philippines, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, India and the Arab Republic of Egypt.

On September 28, Canada rushed an additional \$4 million to the International Organization for Migration, to be used for evacuating refugees by air. This was in addition to the million dollars already donated to the organization at the beginning of the crisis. IOM executives contracted a Canadian air carrier for these shuttle flights.

Part of the \$75 million will be used to provide for the basic needs of displaced people in evacuation camps, including water, food, shelter and medical care. Part of these funds will also be used to assist resettlement in the country of origin.

In the countries least equipped to cope with the mass of returning nationals, assistance will be needed to build new housing, support educational programs and reintegrate returning nationals in the labour market.

I can assure the House that the plight of these displaced persons is our most pressing concern. My representatives are now consulting with Canadian mis-

sions in the region and in the countries affected by the crisis, as well as with international organizations on the spot and the governments of the countries concerned, to finalize Canada's aid program for these people.

International relief organizations and NGOs will also play an essential role in channelling our assistance.

[English]

Canada will also provide economic assistance to the countries of the region most severely affected by the impact of the crisis and of the sanctions, especially Jordan, Egypt and Turkey.

In Jordan, it is estimated that some 30 per cent of total Gross National Product will be lost this year through trade losses, through increases in the price of oil and through lost remittances from Jordanians who once worked in Iraq and Kuwait.

Egypt and Turkey too will suffer significant losses for economies with little resilience to external shocks such as these. I have asked my officials to provide me with a detailed assessment of how Canada can best respond to the needs of these countries and those populations. Consultations are under way with other potential donors and the countries in question.

We will ensure that this additional Canadian assistance is used effectively to relieve hardship, to adjust to the economic shock and to help keep the process of development on track.

Our world has become increasingly interdependent. Other countries further from the region will also be affected by the impact of the Gulf crisis.

Many countries in eastern Europe have launched a dramatic, but still fragile, process of political and economic transformation. Their ability to manage the basic economic adjustment to market economies is hampered by the burden of oil price increases, which is further compounded by the need to now pay in expensive, hard currency.

The developing world too will be affected and I am factoring in the longer term consequences of the gulf crisis in our over-all assistance planning. The scenario for many developing countries is not good, but much will depend on the longer term price of oil.