

S.O. 29

President Reagan said over television today that Libya had sent \$400 million worth of arms to the Sandinistas. Representatives in the U.S. Congress today talked about the shiploads of Libyan purchased arms which have gone into that country. Let them remember as well that it is American technology, and in many cases American workers, that feed, fine tune and keep the engine running which produces the capital required to buy those weapons.

We cannot have it both ways any longer. If we are to find consensus in the world for real, meaningful sanctions, if we are to avoid having any country finding itself frustrated enough to say that it had no alternative, the job and challenge of the Government of Canada is to take a leadership role in putting an end to the international hypocrisy which has existed in respect of the state of affairs in Libya and in a number of other similar regimes around the world.

[Translation]

**Hon. Monique Vézina (Minister for External Relations):** Mr. Speaker, the emergency debate we have been asked to take part in this evening should be seen as an opportunity for the Members of this House and for all Canadian men and women to reflect on violence and its underlying causes.

Mr. Speaker, Canadians are generally reputed to be a profoundly peace-loving people. Abroad, our country enjoys an enviable reputation. Whenever the opportunity arose, we have managed to be peacemakers instead of warmongers. Other countries have often turned to Canada for advice, and I saw an example of this last year in Central America, where we were asked to share our expertise in the area of control commissions and peacekeeping forces.

I think I should also mention our efforts, as a Government and as a country, to fight poverty and neglect and try and bring greater social justice wherever possible. We are trying to achieve social justice through a substantial co-operation program in over 100 countries on continents.

That being said, Mr. Speaker, we cannot but be deeply concerned about the rise of terrorism in the world. Terrorism is a thoroughly repugnant evil. It strikes down innocent victims. It paralyzes, through fear, the free movement of persons. It engenders suspicion, misunderstanding and hate.

Although up to now, its effects have been felt largely in Europe and the Middle East, the violence of terrorism has not spared Canadians. We need only recall the Air India disaster which claimed the lives of so many Canadians last year. I am also reminded of the highjacking of an EgyptAir jet to Malta, which led to the death of a Canadian woman and her young child. The highjacking of the Achille Lauro off the Egyptian coast also illustrates the increasing risk to innocent victims when travelling abroad.

The Canadian Government emphatically condemns all terrorist acts as unacceptable, irrespective of where they take place and what motivated them. I say it this evening in this House, and I will say it again in every international forum where I am given a chance to do so.

Mr. Speaker, I have no hesitation in stating that this Government has set a very high priority on promoting various initiatives designed to counter international terrorism.

For the first time in its history, on December 9 last year the U.N. General Assembly condemned all terrorist acts as being criminal acts. Canada made every effort to get this resolution adopted. Similarly, at the International Civil Aviation Organization, we have spoken out most emphatically in favour of reinforcing aviation security. In two weeks, the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) will take part in the Tokyo Summit, and I know that he will be examining with his colleagues, the heads of State of the large industrialized countries, ways of further enhancing co-operation between our countries in fighting against this scourge.

Mr. Speaker, last night, the United States of America attacked in Libya a number of centres of terrorist activity and military targets. The Canadian Government had been informed of the imminence of this raid. As stated in an official press release, we accepted the statement by the President of the United States in which he said that Libya was involved in perpetrating terrorist attacks in Europe.

Mr. Speaker, we can always try to understand the psychology of the terrorist. A man who destroys, who wounds and kills is often a human being who has been deeply wounded himself. However, I cannot understand a country that agrees to train, help and officially support such people by encouraging them to commit such desperate and hopeless acts. We are seeing the birth of state-supported terrorism which can only be countered by a response at the same level. That is what we saw last night. The United States acted on a principle that is well known in law, the principle of self-defence.

Without applauding the American raid, we understand it was unavoidable in the circumstances.

That being said, Mr. Speaker, the Canadian Government will continue to work on identifying political and thus peaceful solutions to the various international conflicts that have engendered terrorism. I am of course thinking first of all of the tensions existing in the Middle East.

Our policy in this region consists in encouraging as much as possible the use of negotiations to resolve this conflict. This concern for peace was reiterated by the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Clark) on his recent tour in the Middle East.

Canada has long since declared itself supportive of a fair, lasting and full settlement of the Israel-Arab conflict, on the basis of UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. These resolutions acknowledge the right of all countries of that region to exist within safe and accepted borders, and they ask for the withdrawal of Israel from the territories occupied in 1967.

We have given our support to initiate peace negotiations between Israel and Arab countries. With that in mind, we rejoiced at the moderation shown in this respect by many Arab