

### INTERNATIONAL HEART HEALTH CONFERENCE

**Mr. Pat Sobeski (Cambridge):** Madam Speaker, the International Heart Health Conference will be held in Victoria from May 24 to May 28. The theme of the conference is "Bridging the Gap: Science and Policy in Action".

Organized jointly by the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada, Health and Welfare Canada and the British Columbia Ministry of Health, and co-sponsored by the World Health Organization, it is expected to attract 600 national and international delegates and feature Victoria declaration on heart health.

This conference will showcase the accomplishments of the Canadian heart health initiative in which all provincial departments of health are working together with Health and Welfare Canada to implement a national approach to the prevention and control of cardiovascular disease.

This conference is a landmark for cardiovascular disease prevention in Canada. It will set the future direction for policy and research agendas in heart health beyond the year 2000.

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### REFUGEES

**Mr. Dan Heap (Trinity—Spadina):** Madam Speaker, the Government of Canada is misleading Canadians about its refugee determination program. The rate of acceptance of refugee candidates in Canada has been cut to 54 per cent for the past half year.

This was done by narrowing the legalistic interpretation of the word "refugee" and by harshly rejecting most humanitarian and compassionate claims that would have been accepted a year ago.

The government defends the program by saying that Canada accepts a higher proportion of claimants than any other country. That is not true.

Britain protects a far higher proportion than Canada. In 1989, Britain gave protection to 37 per cent of claimants under refugee status and 47 per cent under exceptional leave which leads to permanent residence. That is 80 per cent of claimants protected.

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Canada needs to amend our system by giving full right of appeal against the many mistaken IRB decisions and by establishing clear rules and procedures for protection on humanitarian and compassionate grounds.

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### SILKEN LAUMANN

**Mr. Terry Clifford (London—Middlesex):** Madam Speaker, millions of Canadians were dismayed to learn this week that Silken Laumann, a leader in Canada's quest for Olympic gold in Barcelona, suffered severe injuries in a rowing accident in Germany. Silken captured the hearts of Canadians at the 1991 world championships where she placed first in the single scull event. It was the first time a Canadian has ever brought that title home.

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This achievement is just one of a long list of impressive accomplishments by Silken Laumann. She has served as a continuing source of fierce Canadian pride in international competition. Her dedication to the sport of rowing has provided inspiration for many young Canadian athletes.

Despite her serious injuries, her courageous spirit remains unbroken. Canadians are sure to see her return to the sport of rowing with a renewed vigour and a brilliant future.

I ask all members of this House to join me in expressing our best hopes and wishes for Silken's speedy recovery.

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[Translation]

### MACEDONIA

**Mr. Marcel Prud'homme (Saint-Denis):** Madam Speaker, the hon. Secretary of State for External Affairs is preparing to visit Greece, Turkey and Cyprus. I strongly hope that she will be able to impress her Turkish colleagues and convince them that the time has come for Turkey to withdraw its occupation troops from Cyprus, where our Canadian troops have served so long with such style, intelligence, courage and patience under the aegis of the United Nations peacekeeping forces.