

**Hon. Raymond J. Perrault (Leader of the Government)** moved, with leave of the Senate and notwithstanding rule 44(1)(f) that the bill be placed on the Orders of the Day for second reading at the next sitting of the Senate.

Motion agreed to.

[English]

### FOREIGN AFFAIRS

MOTION TO AUTHORIZE COMMITTEE TO STUDY CANADIAN RELATIONS WITH COUNTRIES OF THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA—DEBATE ADJOURNED

**Hon. George van Roggen**, with leave of the Senate and notwithstanding rule 45(1)(e), moved:

That the Standing Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs be authorized to examine and report upon Canadian relations with countries of the Middle East and North Africa, namely Morocco, Tunisia, Algeria, Libya, Egypt, Sudan, Israel, Lebanon, Jordan, Syria, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, North and South Yemen, Oman, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Bahrain, Kuwait and Iran;

That the Committee be empowered to engage the services of such counsel and technical, clerical and other personnel as may be required for the purpose of the said examination and consideration of such legislation and other matters as may be referred to it, at such rates of remuneration and reimbursement as the Committee may determine, and to compensate witnesses by reimbursement of travelling and living expenses, if required, in such amount as the Committee may determine; and

That the Committee have power to sit during adjournments of the Senate.

**The Hon. the Speaker pro tem:** Honourable senators, is it your pleasure to adopt this motion?

**Hon. Jacques Flynn (Leader of the Opposition):** No. I have no problem if the sponsor wishes to explain the motion. Perhaps we can digest what he says overnight. Certainly, the list of countries is quite impressive.

**Senator van Roggen:** Honourable senators, perhaps I might take a moment to explain the motion tonight. I have a possible problem tomorrow afternoon because of a commitment here in Ottawa. The steering committee of the committee, upon the conclusion of our study of Canada-United States relations and the publication of Volume III of that report some months ago, gave a good deal of consideration to what the committee could most suitably study next. We considered areas previously studied by the committee—the Caribbean in 1970, the Pacific Rim countries, including certain Asian countries in 1972, and, as you will recall, our study of relations between Canada and the European community in 1973. Of course, since then we have completed a long study on Canada's relations with the United States.

Effectively, of the areas of the world where Canada has major interests, there was left Latin America and the Middle East. The Standing Committee on External Affairs and National Defence of the House of Commons, as you know, has

been dealing with Latin America, which left us, in large measure, with the Middle East as the remaining major area of Canadian concern in trade and foreign policy to be looked at.

We were naturally concerned that nothing in this proposal be interpreted by members of the committee, the Senate, or, for that matter, the Canadian public at large, as being some sort of effort on the part of the committee to conduct a second Camp David. We are not launching upon this particular study on the basis of trying to arrive at a solution to the serious problem that exists between Israel and the Arab states. That is not our objective. Naturally, this topic will be part of our study, but we wish to address ourselves to the overall relationship between Canada and the Middle East from the points of view of trade, diplomatic representation, immigration and other matters involving the countries in that part of the world, countries with which Canada is developing ever more trade and other relations.

The reason for the long list of countries which we have put forward in the motion is that we do not want any doubt to exist in people's minds as to the area involved. Basically, it is the area of the Middle East, but we thought it unfortunate to conduct such a study without including the Moslem countries of North Africa. So, for our own guidance and because we did not want anybody to think that we would be wandering astray, north to Turkey, east to Afghanistan or into Pakistan, we decided to put some geographic perimeters, if I may use that term, on the Middle East by listing the many countries encompassed in that area. It is a study which, I can assure you, the committee will approach on the basis of Canada's broad interests in that area, and not in the narrow context of the Israeli-Arab conflict, which is an ongoing problem.

I do not think there is anything further I can add, unless honourable senators have specific questions.

**Hon. Frederick W. Rowe:** Honourable senators, I have one question. I am not sure whether the list of countries included what are referred to as the Mediterranean countries of North Africa. Morocco and Egypt, I believe, were listed, but are all the countries in North Africa bordering on the Mediterranean Sea included? Perhaps the honourable senator could inform us.

**Senator van Roggen:** Honourable senators, all those countries are included, or are intended to be included. To repeat, they include Morocco, Tunisia, Algeria, Libya and Egypt.

**Senator Flynn:** Honourable senators, in case there are some members of the Senate who would like to read the list of countries tomorrow in *Hansard*, I move the adjournment of the debate.

On motion of Senator Flynn, debate adjourned.