

S.O. 29

Perhaps we should consider further agreements among nations to forestall incidents such as that of the *Achille Lauro* hijacking.

We are all fully conscious of the intractability and the bitterness which the tensions and conflicts of the Middle East have engendered. These threaten not only that region but the peace of the entire world. The risk is growing, as we all realize. That is why we are involved in this debate tonight. The risk is growing as problems of economic adjustment due to declining oil revenues pose an economic challenge to the moderates and peacemakers of that region. The unresolved Arab-Israeli dispute and the senseless and bitter fighting in the Iran-Iraq war provide a somber background to the issue which brings us to this debate tonight.

As the House will know, the Secretary of State for External Affairs recently concluded a very successful trip to the Middle East. I am sure all Members will agree that he spoke eloquently of the need to resolve the region's problems. He noted how countries outside the region—countries such as Canada—could help provide the conditions and encouragement that would assist in making that peace possible. He spoke of Israel's right to secure and recognize boundaries. He also spoke of the right of the Palestinians to a homeland within a clearly defined territory—the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. We are on record as saying to both sides that there must be a recognition of this problem and an understanding of each other's position.

If the international community could work to achieve peace in the Middle East and resolve those problems which have been with us for so long and have alienated and embittered a generation of young Palestinians and Israelis, it would remove one of the elements which contributes to the causes of the problems. Many people claim that if this alienation and anti-western feeling that it engenders continue to grow, it will feed the terrorism that we see today.

Canadians are among the most travelled people in the world and mention has been made of the number of Canadians working in Libya. I do not want to overstate the problem but the fact that we travel so much exposes our people to certain risks. The diversity and the ability of Canadians to work in certain fields make it impossible for us to turn into ourselves. We cannot avoid the risks and the problems of international

contact and commerce because it is our life blood. Our national reality demands that we work with determination and vigour in conjunction with other members of the world community. For that reason, Canadians have a very real stake in a concerted attack on terrorism itself and its root political causes so that we can overcome this scourge.

It has been stated that we accept President Reagan's assertion that there is substantial evidence directly linking Libya to terrorist acts and plans for further measures against American targets in Europe. The Prime Minister has made it very clear that there is no doubt that terrorism is reprehensible and an evil which all responsible members of the world community must strive to eliminate. Nevertheless, it is a matter for regret that the situation should have become so serious as to lead the United States to feel obliged to take military action. We hope this will be sufficient and will lead to further restraint.

Let me say in closing, the eradication of terrorism will require a concerted effort by the international community which we believe must address not only the manifestations of terrorism but also its causes, which lie, in large part, in the tensions and instability in the Middle East. Terrorism can only be resolved on a lasting basis by political solutions and negotiated settlements. This is an approach which Canada under various Governments, including the previous Government and ourselves, has long supported. I am sure I speak for all Members of the House when I say that we all want a resolution by political means and a negotiated settlement of the root cause of those problems in the Middle East. This is a position that we all support and which the Secretary of State for External Affairs reiterated during his recent visit. I see that you are indicating that it is twelve o'clock, Mr. Speaker. On behalf of all Members, I want to thank you for being with us during this debate.

Mr. Speaker: It being twelve o'clock midnight, pursuant to Standing Order 29(13) I declare the motion carried.

This House stands adjourned until later this day at two o'clock p.m., pursuant to Standing Order 3(1).

The House adjourned at 12.01 a.m.